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WEHBE SPEAKS AT IDB MEETING IN PANAMA 21 MAR

PY221936 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1256 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe has pointed out that Argentina "is ready to fulfill its commitments" to the IMF, but that it will first ask for "the understanding and facilities needed under current circumstances" in order to deal with the problems of the foreign debt "with dignity."

Wehbe, speaking at the IDB Governors Assembly in Panama yesterday, said that "the fact that the problems affecting the world economy continue to prevail" reveal that "the so-called crisis is of a structural nature."

Wehbe's speech at the IDB Governors Assembly and the remarks he made to a group of Argentine bankers were released by the Economy Ministry last night.

Wehbe -- who is returning tonight -- recognized, during the meeting with the bankers, that "there are problems with prices" and that he is optimistic about the inflation level for March. He pointed out that "there will be no need to review the agreement signed with the IMF."

The minister also attributed "the negative expectations concerning the Argentine economy" to the "uncertainty of the programs of the political parties."

He informed the IDB governors that he has held private meetings with leaders of Argentine political parties and that he believes that "it is necessary to seek and to achieve national objectives."

Wehbe indicated that Argentina has "close links with all the countries of the continent and understands their problems." He denied, however, that the country is willing to create a "debtors' club."

This proposal was made by some democratic governments of the continent, including Bolivia and Ecuador.

He went on to say that "we will most certainly not return to the prosperity of the post-war period which the world experienced. Almost certainly the economy of the future will be the result of the technological transformations now taking place."

He added that "during the decade of the 70's -- within the economic strategies and in view of the magnitude of the crisis -- the world saw the revival of old concepts under different labies."

In a clear criticism of monetarism, Wehbe said that "in that manner it was believed that it was possible to come out of the crisis through market forces and controlling the monetary base."

He said that "after many experiences these concepts are now on the way out but no replacement is on the horizon. The world is definitely suffering a real crisis because of the lack of any strategy."

He also said that "within the frame of reference, we can say that the world economy is suffering the consequences of the so-called financial syndrome and commercial protectionism, which is growing every day."

MASSERA, PDS URGE EXPULSION OF U.S. ENVOY

PY222135 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1929 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Salta, 21 Mar (DYN) -- The Party for Social Democracy, led by Adm Emilio Massera, will ask the government to declare U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Harry Schlaudeman "persona non grata," as revealed here by Armando Molina Zavalia, a leader of that party and a former deputy. In remarks made to reporters in Salta during a political campaign stop, Molina Zavalia also said that "Admiral Massera maintains excellent relations with Maria Estela Martinez de Peron" and added that the government "must fully recognize all rights of the former president."

Reiterating his accusations against the U.S. ambassador, Molina Zavalia stated that Schlaudeman "has maintained a distinct position of clear interference in Argentine domestic affairs" and that "lately he has been holding suspicious meetings with leaders of some national parties."

MRS PERON REPORTEDLY SEEKS SPANISH CITIZENSHIP

Army Denies Report on Contact

PY222102 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1416 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- The Army Command today "categorically" denied a report mentioning Gen Jorge Suarez, undersecretary general of the Army, as the main contact between the Army and former president Maria Estela Martinez de Peron.

Peron Claims No Plans To Return

PY222107 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1226 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- Former president Maria Estela Martinez de Peron has initiated steps to acquire Spanish citizenship and for the moment she does not intend to return to Argentina. This was revealed today from Madrid by reporter Hugo Ferrer, correspondent of the program "Convicciones," which is broadcast by Radio El Mundo from Buenos Aires.

In a telephone conversation with the host of this program, Lucho Aviles, Ferrer also stated that the former president has decided not to participate in the internal struggle of the Justicialist Party. According to Ferrer, Mrs Peron made these revelations during a chat they held yesterday on Serrano Street in Madrid, near her home. The former president told the reporter that, first of all, she was not thinking of returning to Argentina, and, second, she decided not to participate in the party's internal struggle and that she has already initiated steps to acquire Spanish citizenship.

MILITARY JUNTA TO ISSUE PACKAGE OF MEASURES

PY230100 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 2, 3

[Text] The Armed Forces will publicly assume a commitment to "again fight any upsurge of subversion if they are requested to do so by the next constitutional government," military sources said on announcing the forthcoming approval of the first part of a "package of measures" designed to solve problems stemming from the recent fight against leftist guerrillas.

According to these sources, the military junta will release three measures, out of a total of five, in the first week of April, after the holy week holidays. Studies on the remaining two measures will continue and it is not known whether they will be implemented before or after the 30 October elections.

The procedure chosen -- to implement the "package" in two different stages -- seems to be a compromise between the positions which from the very beginning the three commanders in chief and President Bignone had maintained on the subject.

While the junta members wanted to issue these measures all at once and prior to the election, the president wanted to wait for the outcome of the election to negotiate the implementation of these measures with the winning political force.

The first document the military junta will public in April will be entitled "Historical Review" of the antisubversive struggle. It will outline both the historical framework of this struggle and explanations from the military standpoint of what brought about sedition.

The sources noted that the beginning of the military antisubversive action will be placed in the last year of the constitutional justicialist government.

It will be in this section of the "package," the sources said, that a commitment will be made to engage again in an antisubversive struggle if required by circumstances and ordered by the constitutional government.

The second measure will consist of a list of figures of the last Peronist government who will be exempted from the sanctions imposed by the "Act of Institutional Responsibility." It was made clear, however, that the act will not be repealed.

Although the sources did not give any name, it is taken for granted that the measure will benefit, among others, former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, union leaders Lorenzo Miguel and Julio Guillan and former La Rioja governor Carlos Saul Menem. There could be news on this subject this week.

In keeping with the military junta's decision, the following will not be exempted from the sanctions imposed by the act: "those who were punished as terrorists" and those who "although not punished as terrorists have remained outside the country and are wanted by the courts."

The sources gave no further details about this last requirement to regain civil and political rights.

The third document will contain "a statement by the Armed Forces whereby they will assume institutional responsibility for all actions taken by military personnel during the struggle against subversion."

Thus, each of the three forces will contend that its officers and noncommissioned officers acted in every case complying with "orders from above," and consequently "any trial of excesses committed by them will fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the military tribunals."

The spokesmen said that the legal precedents were taken into account to formulate the "institutional responsibility" theory. These precedents indicate that virtually no military personnel have been brought to a court of law for offenses committed during a specific mission.

They also noted that upon the enforcement of these instruments -- which will have the force of law -- the future amnesty and "defense of democracy" laws will remain pending.

Yet they noted that no decision has yet been made as to the name of the last instrument mentioned.

Regarding amnesty, the military spokesmen said: "An attempt is being made to make its terms as far-reaching as the country's political situation can allow." They added: "This is designed to negotiate the continuity of this law under the next constitutional government."

In line with this description, it is assumed that in addition to benefiting military and security personnel who may have violated the laws during repressive actions, the amnesty law will seek to include some cases of persons charged with subversion.

The sources insisted on stating that this instrument is still at "a drafting stage" and that the military leaders have not yet decided whether to make it public before or after the forthcoming national elections.

Finally, they said that the "Law for Defense of Democracy" follows the experience acquired by other countries in this field, including Brazil, where a similar instrument known as the "National Security Law" is now in force.

This "Law for the Defense of Democracy" will seek to establish the framework for the political process "by preventing it from destroying the institutional process" and will regulate the form and substance of public remarks and so forth.

No Annual Coup Message This Year

PY222013 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1903 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA) -- Air Force Commander in Chief Lt Gen Augusto Hughes today stated that the military junta will not release any message next Thursday on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the advent to power of the Armed Forces government.

According to Hughes, this will be the first time the junta will refrain from releasing a document on the anniversary of the military coup which overthrew the Peronist government on 24 March 1976.

Hughes said that on Thursday there will only be a ceremony to be held at the Stella Maris Church where the military vicar, Msgr Jose Medina, will say a homily which will possibly replace the usual junta message.

Hughes made these remarks this afternoon in Buenos Aires shortly upon returning from a brief inspection tour of the bases of Reconquista (Santa Fe) and Parana to see the problems caused by the floods.

The junta will hold its regular meeting on Thursday at the Libertador Building -- the Army headquarters -- and it is believed that its busy agenda will include, among others, a document on the missing persons and pardon for those persons affected by the act of institutional responsibility.

SUPREME COURT ORDERS RELEASE OF PRISONER

PY222118 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1346 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (DYN) -- The Supreme Court has ruled that the president must release, at the latest within 15 days, a person who had been detained under the state of siege. The court stated that extending his detention beyond 7 years amounts to "turning the detention into an actual sentence which the executive branch, according to the Constitution, is not allowed to impose."

Judicial branch sources report that the Supreme Court accepted a habeas corpus petition filed in favor of Horacio Ernesto Spadoni, who was detained on 3 June 1975 on charges of being a member of the combat groups of a subversive organization that attempted to seize the 121 arsenal battalion in Santa Fe, on 13 April 1975.

MARITIME WORKERS BEGIN INDEFINITE STOPPAGE

PY222117 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1927 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (TELAM) -- Maritime workers today began an indefinite stoppage, which will affect Argentine fishing boats manned by foreign crews, protesting the hiring of approximately 400 foreigners while there are 2,500 unemployed Argentine sailors.

The stoppage, which will affect some 40 ships, was announced by the maritime union coordinating board on 11 March. The board telegrammed its decision to Navy Commander in Chief Adm Ruben Franco.

2,000 TONS OF BUTTER SHIPPED TO SOVIET UNION

PY230144 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Mar 83 p 11

[Text] Argentina's first direct shipment of butter to the Soviet Union was announced yesterday by the Sancor dairy cooperative, which is shipping 2,000 tons to Russia on the Liberian "Ocean Reefer."

In order to comply with Soviet requirements, the butter was packed in pallets of about one ton each. The total value of the shipment is estimated at four million dollars.

SILES ZUAZO TO TRAVEL TO FRANCE 26 MARCH

PY230122 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado has reported that President Siles Zuazo will meet French President Francois Mitterrand on 29 March in Paris. Velarde Dorado explained that Siles Zuazo will travel to Paris on Saturday, 26 March, and that he will make technical stopovers in Lima and Madrid. He added, however, that the Bolivian president will not be paying official visits to either of those countries. During the president's stay in Paris, Siles Zuazo and Mitterrand will analyze the Bolivian economic crisis and the possibilities of channeling French economic aid to Bolivia.

President Siles Zuazo's entourage, which will be reduced, will be made up of Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado, Planning Minister Arturo Nunez del Prado and Military Household Chief Col (Edgar Klaus). Foreign Minister Velarde Dorado noted that Planning Minister Nunez del Prado will hold a series of meetings with French financial experts. During these meetings, the Bolivian planning minister will refer to areas of possible economic and technical cooperation that may lead to Bolivia's recovery.

EL DIARIO CONCERNED OVER COMMUNIST POSITION

PY220132 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 2

[Editorial: "Communist Dominance"]

[Text] The vice president recently revealed that there is Communist dominance in the composition of the government, indicating that, although the Communist Party's official participation only involves two ministries, in reality this party controls many more positions adding up to about a 50 percent share of power.

We believe that the seriousness of this remark, considering the source, should not be disregarded by the public. This means that the growing but unconcealable "Sovietization" of the current regime is obviously threatening this incipient democracy, a democracy which can be destroyed from within as is, in reality, already happening.

A detailed study of events -- which with careful synchronization have unleashed a wave of chaos and anarchy throughout the entire country -- shows without question that a hidden agenda aimed at making political gains exists.

It is well known that the Communists can only make gains and increase their influence in an environment of general chaos. Experience in many countries proves that this is the strategy invariably used by extremism to take complete control.

Under current circumstances the situation is even more favorable for the Communists to achieve this objective. The Communists practically control the entire sphere of social influence both inside and outside of the government. Acting as government officials they can cause the bankruptcy of enterprises by irresponsibly using all the means of pressure at their disposal, as in the case of the National Press Association where newspapers are being illegally forced to make large expenditures which many will not be able to bear in turn causing their closure. Other enterprises of various types are also in difficult circumstances and their bankruptcy can be predicted, thus hurting the country, employees and workers.

As "union leaders" within the labor union bureaucracy, the Communists stir up class struggle by using the easy method of asking the impossible in order to create the conditions of social unrest, conditions which are very useful politically.

Therefore, a government that has emerged as the greatest hope for achieving democracy has within itself undemocratic elements. This is a situation that can create worse evils than any dictatorship.

The forced silencing of the press in the next few days in addition to all anarchic events the country is experiencing are only a foretaste of the Communist plans already being carried out.

SANTA CRUZ DECLARED NATIONAL DISASTER AREA

PY211922 Paris AFP in Spanish 1550 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] La Paz, 21 Mar (AFP) -- The Bolivian Government has just declared Santa Cruz Department a national disaster area in the wake of heavy rains and extensive floods which resulted in the death of 50 persons, the disappearance of another 100 and more than 21,000 homeless persons. This was announced in La Paz today.

The city of Santa Cruz, 1,000 kilometers east of La Paz, new resembles a large island surrounded by water as radio announcers put it.

Defense Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado has launched a national solidarity campaign to collect food and donations for the victims of the Pirai River overflow.

The International Human Rights and Democratic Recovery Conference, which closed last night in La Paz, proclaimed its support for that campaign.

As rescue work proceeds, the number of dead increases. The damage caused by the floods is extensive: crops covered by water, more than 20 bridges washed away, hundreds of houses collapsed, animals killed, large portions of oil pipelines broken and 10 kilometers of the main railroad carried away. This is just a preliminary report on the damage.

The situation in Santa Cruz elicited a growing and spontaneous demonstration of solidarity by the citizenry: businessmen, professionals, merchants and citizens in general are continually bringing their contributions to the office of the state-run television station.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS TO JAPAN, SPAIN -- The governments of Japan, Venezuela, Spain and Colombia have approved the appointment of Bolivian ambassadors Jorge Otero Calderon, Walter Guevara Arze, Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas and Lydia Gueiler Tejada respectively. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 11 Mar 83 p 8 PY]

CONJUNCTIVITIS EPIDEMIC -- Trinidad, 14 Mar -- Health officials have requested a recess in school activities in this city due to an epidemic of conjunctivitis affecting children. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 15 Mar 83 p 7 PY]

PENA, LAMONT CONTINUE DIALOGUE ON TRADE

PY221315 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Industry and Commerce Minister Camilo Pena told Norman Lamont, British assistant secretary of state for industry, about the atmosphere of uncertainty and unstable prospects of the Brazilian economy in view of the stagnation of the international trade. At the same time he pointed out the threat which the liquidity crisis of the foreign financial market and the increase of protectionism measures by the industrialized markets represent. This, he pointed out, prevents the underdeveloped and developing countries from paying their debts.

During the meeting the two ministers spoke mainly about political issues, but in referring to economic issues they both agreed that the economic crisis is affecting Brazilian-British trade exchange.

Norman Lamont stated that the United Kingdom is willing to increase its investments in Brazil but wishes Brazil to relax its import policy so that the United Kingdom may increase its exports.

SPAIN'S JUAN CARLOS TO VISIT 16-21 MAY

PY220245 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Spanish King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia will arrive in Brazil on 16 May. They will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Fernando Moran. They will stay in Brazil until 21 May and will meet with President Figueiredo and Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro.

Issues to be discussed during the visit are the situation in Spain since the election of socialist Felipe Gonzalez as Spain's prime minister, the 15 November election in Brazil and the situation in Central America.

CALS DEPARTS FOR OLADE MEETING IN MEXICO

PY222328 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals today left for Mexico City where he will attend the eighth meeting of the committee of ministers of the Latin American Energy Organization, OLADE.

The following will be discussed at the meeting: issues concerning the OLADE Standing Secretariat, the approval of projects designed to promote energy cooperation among member countries and an analysis of the international oil market.

EMBRAER TEAM VISITS HONDURAS; PLANE SALE LIKELY

PY222343 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 Mar 83 p 14

[By Rosental Calmon Alves]

[Text] Tegucigalpa -- Brazil is negotiating the sale of military aircraft to a Central American country for the first time after a deliberate absence from that strife-torn region where arms sales have been a most profitable business. Here in Honduras, the performance of an Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] team in charge of demonstrations with the Bandeirantes and the Tucano pilot training planes has been so successful that the sale of 10 planes to the Honduran Air Force is already in the final negotiation stage.

In recent years, Brazil has become one of the world's largest arms exporters. However, it has refrained from entering the Central American market due to the political and diplomatic repercussions that negotiating in this region -- marked by tensions arising from civil wars and arms buildup -- would bring. Nevertheless, international arms market sources report that Brazilian manufacturers are now seeking to obtain Brazilian Government authorization to sell here not only military planes but also weapons, like Taurus machineguns.

The Embraer team in charge of the demonstrations with the Tucano and Bandeirantes planes left Tegucigalpa for Jamaica yesterday. It will then travel to Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The team will repeat the demonstrations that began last week in Panama. Later, another Embraer team will travel to Europe with the two planes. Brazilian manufacturers have high hopes that a deal may be closed with Great Britain.

The Tucano is Embraer's newest training plane and it will replace the Xavante, contrary to its jet engined predecessor, the Tucano, a turboprop, is cheaper, less sophisticated and more adequate for pilot training. It can also be used as a combat plane, since it has been designed to carry machineguns and other weapons.

The Tucano that is being used in the demonstrations is the seventh one produced by Embraer. The first six planes are being used by the Brazilian Air Force, where there is remarkable optimism over the negotiations for the sale of more than 100 Tucanos to a European country, probably Great Britain. This operation would give initial impulse to future sales to developing countries, taking into account the international performance of the Xavante, whose success increased even further after France, a developed country, bought 41 units for training its navy pilots.

ARMY MEDIA CENTER ON HIGH COMMAND MEETING

PY220256 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The Army mass media center has reported that it has no information about an official note to be released by Army Minister Walter Pires after the 25 March meeting of the High Command to announce military withdrawal from political activities. The Army mass media center states that the Army High Command meeting is designed to discuss the promotion of generals and administrative matters.

FLOODING CAUSES DEATH, DESTRUCTION IN RIO

PY220248 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 Mar 83 p 1

[Text] Five people have died and nearly 2,000 are homeless. Rivers have filled and flooded streets, shantytowns and houses in several districts of the city and greater Rio de Janeiro. The rain that has fallen since early Saturday morning as a farewell to summer is equivalent to a third of the normal March rainfall. The rains will probably continue today.

According to Civil Defense, in Rio de Janeiro county alone, 19 containment barriers have fallen down, 24 houses have been destroyed, there were four landslides and 12 brick walls collapsed. Forty-six fishermen spent the night in the rain and great cold on five islands near the coast and were saved by three lifeboats.

Luis Alfredo Salomao, Rio de Janeiro state secretary for public works and environment, will propose to Interior Minister Mario Andreazza in Brasilia today that the National Department of Works and Sanitation (DNOS) participate in the dredging and clearing of the rivers and canals of the state. Health Secretary Eduardo Costa has stated that a mass vaccination of the population against typhus is not necessary.

ARGENTINE POLICY TOWARD U.K., CHILE CRITICIZED

PY220130 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Mar 83 p 1-3

[Editorial: "Policy of Force"]

[Text] British officials have reported an incident which was said to have occurred some time ago on Thule Island, which belongs to the South Sandwich group; the British flag was allegedly taken down and replaced with an Argentine flag in the incident. This minor episode, termed fanciful and unfounded by Argentine sources, is very typical of a systematic policy followed by some sectors in our neighboring country. In fact, if the situation reigning in the South Atlantic during the last few months is reviewed it will be found that there have been repeated incidents or other events which would indicate that the existing tranquillity is more apparent than real.

On various occasions, Argentine Air Force units have approached the defense zone established by the United Kingdom around the Malvinas, either with hostile intentions or, more probably, to test the readiness and reaction capacity of the British forces. Still more serious is the fact that Argentine political or military spokesmen have repeatedly made statements suggesting that the use of force is an option that has in no way been excluded.

Other policies followed by the Buenos Aires government seem to confirm that such a possibility is being seriously considered. The renewed purchase of arms is an unmistakable sign that medium or long-term plans are being prepared.

Furthermore, the consistent Argentine refusal to put a formal end to hostilities or to make an explicit declaration that force will not be used is not merely the result of a whim; it is a political decision.

The pattern just described has not been designed exclusively for the British case, because it is also applied to our country in a similar way. While a magazine tried, not very successfully, to pull off a journalistic stunt on the hoisting of an Argentine flag on a Chilean Island in the south, Argentine Navy units have again started to intrude into Chilean territorial waters.

Arms purchases are not a soothing measure. To this should be added new warlike statements made by military commanders in the last few weeks, as well as the significant refusal of Buenos Aires officials to advance toward the conclusion of a treaty of peace, peaceful solution of controversies and desistance from use of force in Chilean-Argentine relations that the pope has repeatedly asked for.

Against this background, we are amazed at reports coming from the United States that President Reagan's government is about to decide to renew its arms sales to Argentina. This would not only be a material stimulus of the above-mentioned policy of force; it would also be political support for the attitude which the government of our neighboring country has assumed in the handling of its foreign policy and border problems.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's request that such sales should not take place before the Argentine Government gives minimum guarantees of appropriate international conduct seems to be a basic condition for the preservation of peace in the region. Such guarantees should be equally explicit regarding Chilean-Argentine relations, based on agreements signed in the framework of the mediation.

DESTRUCTION, UNREST PRECEDE 2-DAY STRIKE

PA230305 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Only a few hours before the national strike called by the United Workers Front, FUT, and the Quito and Guayaquil Chambers of Commerce, there is an atmosphere of general unrest in the city. The National Workers Federation, the Federation of Ecuadorean University Students, the National Union of Teachers and other organizations have announced they will also join the 48-hour strike scheduled for tomorrow. The strike has been called to reject the latest economic measures adopted by the regime.

Street demonstrations and protests took place yesterday and today, causing an aftermath of destruction and losses which has yet to be estimated. At least 50 people were arrested.

In view of what might happen tomorrow, the Education Ministry has decreed there will be no classes or administrative work at the country's public and private primary, secondary and university centers.

A few minutes ago the president issued a decree suspending civil service work tomorrow and Thursday. The decree says that starting on 28 March public employees will work an additional hour every day to make up the time lost during these 2 days.

Meanwhile, the central government is making efforts to control speculation in staples' prices, which have been climbing since last Saturday. In this regard, the president met today with state officials to coordinate the steps for controlling the wave of speculation that started after the monetary devaluation.

BRIEFS

IDB LOANS -- The IDB granted a total of $1,077,000,000 in loans to Ecuador from 1979 to 1982. These resources generated services totalling over $3 billion. The areas that most benefitted from the loans were energy, hydroelectricity, agriculture, fishing, mining, industries, health, transportation and education. [Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 83 PA]

NEW POLITICAL PARTY -- The National Agrarian Party [Partido Agrario Nacional -- PAN] has been officially created in Quito, with Oswaldo Jaramillo Larrea, as its director. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Mar 83 PA]

U.S. REPORT TERMED 'ACCEPTABLE,' 'INCOMPLETE'

PY190211 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] We have asked various local political leaders for their opinion concerning the U.S. Department of State report on the status of human rights in Paraguay. This report was released by the U.S. Embassy in our country.

Even though our newspaper has not received the referent report we feel that it is of interest to know the opinion of the representatives of the various local political parties.

The opinions varied but everyone agreed that the report describes the political, economic and social situation in our country to some extent.

Fulvio Hugo Celauro, president of and deputy for the Liberal Party, believes that "the report tells the truth and describes the events which took place in 1982. It describes the situation of the political parties and mentions the Colorado Party monopoly over public administration including autonomous and binational organizations like Itaipu."

Celauro also added that "even though it states that there is an imposed, relative peace, it also points out that the economic growth has been achieved at the expense of human rights and freedom."

He also said that the report does not mention "certain aspects such as administrative corruption in order to not jeopardize the policy of the United States. Thus the U.S. Congress will have an acceptable but partial picture of Paraguay's problems and will probably direct its efforts toward applying friendly pressure in order to strengthen democracy."

Radical Liberal Party Deputy Ligia Prieto de Centurion said that "although I have not read it in depth, the report is incomplete. It does not mention corruption in public administration which is a very important issue."

She added: "Just as it discussed the lack of freedom of press and the peace achieved at the expense of freedom, it should have mentioned the drug traffic, the embezzlements at autonomous state corporations, the proliferation of smuggling and the great number of unemployed. It also failed to point out political discrimination and poor education."

Ligia Prieto de Centurion emphasized that the "report does not cover basic aspects of our situation such as the lack of agricultural planning and the fact that little attention is paid to farmers."

Juan Granada, secretary general of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party said that the document "examined Paraguayan reality from an objective viewpoint."

The political leader said that "from this report we can conclude beyond the shadow of a doubt that our nation is ruled by a regime which has no respect for human rights."

Emilio Forestieri, political secretary of the Radical Liberal Party said that the report "objectively summarizes the social, political and economic status quo of the country. It shows that Paraguay is ruled by an autocratic regime."

He pointed out that "the report tells the world in general that the political status quo of our nation has not developed toward full democracy which is desired by the large national sectors."

Forestieri went on the say that "as far as the economy goes the only thing the report confirmed is that there has been some growth, brought about mainly by Itaipu. Now that Itaipu is in its semifinal stages, under the pressure of circumstances and the lack of a government financial policy the nation has been stopped in its tracks and the leaders overwhelmed because they failed to draw up a cohorent policy."

He added that "from the social viewpoint there are many unemployed, the universities do not provide the necessary facilities and the opportunities in a nation where 70 percent of the population is not yet 30 years old are almost nil, thus demonstrating the shortcomings and the incapacity to handle the fate of the nation."

"The U.S. Department of State analysis does not provide conclusions or solutions and this tells us that the country's near future is unfathomable. As political secretary of the Radical Liberal Party I feel that the democratic forces of the nation and the glorious Armed Forces must immediately take upon themselves the commitment to launch a responsible dialogue along nationalist lines."

When asked about his opinion, Joaquin Atilio Burgos, Liberal Party secretary general, said that "the report is bound to elicit domestic reactions because it depicts the reality of our country. It is an interesting document worthy of being analyzed."

He agreed that the report "shows that the economy is in the hands of the Colorado Party and discusses the participation of the political parties in the opposition depicting us as silent partners in the attempt to simulate a democratic government."

BRIEFS

NEW ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR -- Jorge Lasso Casares presented his credentials as the new Ecuadorean ambassador to Paraguay to President Alfredo Stroessner today. [Asuncion Teledifusora Paraguaya Television in Spanish 1530 GMT 18 Mar 83 PY]

OUTGOING MEXICAN AMBASSADOR -- Mexican ambassador to Paraguay Lt Col Guillermo Albert Robles has ended his duties after a 45-month term. [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 4 Mar 83 PY]

RESERVES DECLINE REPORT -- The Central Bank has reported that reserves have dropped by 15.08 percent, from $810,915,000 on 31 December 1981 to $688,661,000 on 31 December 1982. The bank has also reported that gold reserves have declined from $4,301,000. [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 4 Mar 83 p 12 PY]

BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT -- The Central Bank has reported that in 1982 the balance of trade registered a $251,690,300 deficit and that bank credit declined by 15,004,900,000 guaranies compared with 1981. [Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Mar 83 p 8 PY]

U.S. REPORT ON SOVIET PRESENCE DENOUNCED

PY221240 Lima EL OBSERVADOR in Spanish 12 Mar 83 p 2

[Text] The news from the U.S. Department of Defense denouncing the presence of Soviet military advisors in Peru was labeled by Aprista Deputy Orison Pardo Matos yesterday as interference in Peruvian domestic affaris.

He said that this shows that the Americans have spies in Peru and that they know in detail matters related to our national security. He said that it is up to the government to conduct appropriate investigations to reveal the source of the information disclosed by the U.S. Department of Defense.

According to the report, there are "from 125 to 150 Soviet military advisors" and that, after Cuba, our country is the one allowing the largest "Soviet penetration."

Pardo Matos explained that the presence of Soviet military advisors is due, undoubtedly, to the needs of our national defense. He recalled that in the last few years Peru has purchased modern Soviet war materiel in accordance with a policy to diversify our sources of war supply.

He said that this policy was proved valid and effective during the recent conflict over the Malvinas. The great Western powers boycotted Argentina and denied her the needed equipment for her defense. He added that even the United States openly supported Great Britain violating the Inter-American Defense Treaty (TIAR).

He pointed out that the policy implemented by the government and the Armed Forces, in relation to the purchase of diversified weapons, is the best guarantee for security at a time when some of our neighbors have reiterated their warmongering policies against our nation.

The deputy said that he did not know the exact number of Soviet military advisors in Peru but he assured that they are connected with the maintenance, instruction and training of our personnel with very sophisticated war materiel.

Senator Sandro Mariategui also commented on this subject playing down the report from the U.S. Department of Defense. He said that the presence of Soviet military advisors is "an inheritance of the Velasco administration" and responds to technical military reasons with which he is not familiar.

Mariategui did not consider the report as U.S. interference in our affairs. He indicated that the report was made by a Senate committee which lacks official represnetation. He added that the Department of State is the one in charge of foreign policy and not the Department of Defense.

CONGRESS EXPEDITES USE OF ANTISUBVERSIVE FUNDS

PY222139 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 17 Mar 83 p 16

[Text] Last night, the standing committee of Congress approved a bill expediting the use of the Interior Ministry's emergency funds for subsidizing antisubversive police operations.

In spite of the classified nature of the total amount of the emergency funds, sources close to the standing committee reported that the funds total approximately 30 billion soles.

Following the bill approved last night, any disbursement made by the Interior Ministry under the emergency plan will need the approval of the interior minister only.

SEPULVEDA AMOR COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL220300 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2230 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 21 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Mexican secretary of foreign relations, today stressed the urgent need to have U.S.-Mexican relations develop along the line of respect based on independence, justice, dignity and cooperation.

At a ceremony commemorating the 17th anniversary of the birth of President Benito Juarez and attended by President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, Sepulveda Amor said that in relations with Guatemala, disagreements that could lead to diplomatic obstacles and difficulties in conducting [foreign] policy ought to be avoided.

We must extend Mexico's ties to Central America, intensifying as much as possible our presence there through solidarity and bilateral cooperation, he asserted. He stressed that Mexico's attitute toward Central America and the Caribbean is not to seek a way to change their path or ignore what caused their problems. For our country, he added, whose borders are in close contact with the fraternal environment, the aggravation of those problems is a matter of substance [cuestion de fondo].

ARMY PREVENTING CONFRONTATIONS NEAR PEMEX TANKS

PA210434 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 19 Mar 83 pp 1, 14A

[By Rafael Medina Cruz]

[TExt] Villahermosa, Tabasco, 18 Mar -- General Mario Murillo Morales, commander of the 30th Military Zone, has said that troops will prevent confrontations in the Lazaro Cardenas Ejido (in Comalcalco Municipality), the infiltration of destabilizing groups among the discontented peasants encamped on the roads leading to the Pemex installations, and weapons traffic. He said that National Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui has ordered that social peace be maintained and that the complaints of Ribereno Pact Ejido members be handled through legal channels.

Gen Murillo Morales added that there is no danger that peace will be broken, but he admitted that for the past 4 days there has been a difficult situation in the Lazaro Cardenas Ejido, where the Pemex tanks that hold the zone's crude oil are located.

The military commander stressed that the presence of troops in Comalcalco is to prevent a confrontation, and that at no time will they be used to repress the peasants, who are protesting alleged nonfulfillment of indemnification payments by Pemex. "On orders of the national defense secretary, my obligation is to guard the installations, prevent confrontations and the infiltration of destabilizing groups, and to issue a call for prudence," he said.

He explained that the Lazaro Cardenas Ejido Pemex installations are not occupied, but that groups of peasants who belong to the Rivereno Pact are on the roads leading to them. They are waiting to speak with Pemex officials about the indemnification payments.

Murillo Morales stressed that there is absolute calm in the state despite what is occurring in Comalcalco. Interviewed in his 30th Military Zone office, Gen Murillo Morales said that Eulogio Mendez Perez agreed not to block the road to the installations after he spoke with him, and warned him that if he did so, it would be his strict responsibility and that he would be committing a crime. "They only blocked the roads for a few hours and then decided to picket near the area," Murillo Morales said.

So far, Murillo Morales said, calm has been maintained and we will make sure that it continues while Pemex and the peasants reach an agreement. The military chief commented that "we need to be united in these difficult moments for the country. We must listen to President Miguel de la Madrid's call."

Pemex Ignores Those Affected

After picketing the Pemex installations for 4 days, the peasants, who belong to the Ribereno Pact accused Pemex officials of neglience "since no official with a negotiating capacity has shown up to hold a dialogue." "They are erroneously trying to resolve the problem with leaders of the League of Agrarian Communities even though they do not represent us."

The peasants explained that Pemex has announced that peasants are already going to its offices to pick up their indemnifications and that 6 million pesos in 300 resolved cases have been paid "but that none of us fall in that group." They said they will reach an agreement at their location and not in the Pemex offices, where they are treated like beggars. They said that Pemex mistakenly tries to hide the problem and turn its back on it "but we will not move from here until there is dialogue with us and we are paid what we are owed, which is more than 4 billion pesos."

The peasants, represented by Eulogio Mendez Perez, said that the officials, who on 20 December promised to resolve their problems within 60 days, lied to them and have demonstrated that their word means nothing. "Either we get paid or we won't move from here," they reiterated.

SECRETARIAT ANNOUNCES INCREASE IN TELEX NETWORK

FL211338 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0044 GMT 20 Mar 83

[Text] Mexico City, 19 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- The Communications and Transportation Secretariat announced today that Mexico will increase its telex network in order to meet its international microwave and satellite needs. The measure includes an increase of 3,000 new lines for a total of 26,400 which, the secretariat added, will meet the telex communications requirements.

PAREDES DISCUSSES SUGAR MILLS, CANAL ISSUES

PA230034 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Two days before the end of the second youth coexistence '83, Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, commander of the Panama National Guard, met today with almost 2000 young people, 500 of them girls. The meeting occurred in Coclesito park. At the meeting, General Paredes was accompanied by his wife, Elvira; Susana Richa de Torrijos, minister of education; Maruja de Gorday, director of the National Beneficent Lottery; and Luis Pabon, general manager of the Savings Bank.

During the meeting the students asked the general many questions. In reference to the sugar problem, General Paredes said:

[Begin recording] The drastic human problem of the sugar mills [does not complete sentence] unfortunately one of them has recently closed, leaving over 3,000 heads of family unemployed and without daily sustenance for their children. I hope that none of the children of those who lost their jobs because of the closure of that activity is among you. This occurred because of pressures that are beyond the control of Panama's leader, President de la Espriella. These are foreign pressures that have to do with the phenomenon of sugar prices. [end recording]

Here are the general's comments on youth:

[Begin recording] By the year 2000 young people must be prepared to receive the weight of the leadership of the Republic of Panama, our homeland. In addition to the responsibility of receiving everything related to the Panama Canal that reverts in the year 2000, you will be in charge of totally perfecting the independence of this isthmus.

Today, we have to accept -- for historic reasons that are beyond the control of this generation that is speaking to you, for reasons that are even more beyond the control of the generation that represent here -- today we cannot say that we are a truly independent republic. We have a second flag on our national territory. A homeland is free and independent when only one flag flies throughout its territory. Today we have two flags flying. However, in the year 2000, we will have only the Panamanian flag, our national anthem, our currency, our population, our customs, our people. There will be no nationalities at the canal other than Panamanians.

For you, the young men and girls who are logically concerned about getting a job to meet the demands of the lives that are ahead of you, to meet the demands of your homes, to raise and educate your children, to struggle beside your husbands and wives, the country must develop; the country must generate more jobs so that you can find work. The country must redouble its efforts to decrease the cost of living, to allow the people to eat more cheaply.

However, the most important thing is that this seedbed, which you represent here today, is the force that will give the homeland continuity. The homeland has to live eternally. Don't forget that. [end recording]

There were also questions about the Indian reservations:

[Begin Paredes recording] We are in complete agreement with the aspirations of the Indians, whether Guaymis, Chocos or Kunas; we are in complete agreement with their just aspirations. However, the Indians should realize that within these extensive sections of land where they would like to have theire reservations, there are also very poor Panamanians whose grandparents and parents are buried on their small lots.

It is very difficult to uproot those people suddenly. Where would we put them? Therefore, there could be a kind of Indian reservation, on which the peasants or Panamanians who are also poor and who need a little parcel of land in order to live, would be respected. The large landholders, that is, those Panamanians who have extensive tracts of land or excess land in those areas where the Indians want to have their reservations or districts, will be relocated. They should be relocated and they realize this. [end recording]

One question dealt with violations of the canal treaties and what the young girl considered to be foreign interference in our domestic affairs:

[Begin Paredes recording] Every time that a complaint has been made, the North Americans have admitted their error or their interference and have retreated in time to avoid conflicts. This should be the attitude of all Panamanians, primarily the young people who are the ones to whom this generation, led by today's rulers, will pass the baton. [end recording]

The National Guard chief also said that the School of the Americas will revert to Panama and that there is no reason for that center for the training of Latin American armies to continue to exist.

General Paredes also said that no agreement had been reached in meetings with legislators last weekend; the meetings were just an exchange of opinions. However, a meeting was scheduled in Coclesito at 1400 this afternoon with members of the people's government.

BRIEFS

YOUTH PROGRAM OPENING -- By Ernesto Quijada Diaz -- "The juvenile coexistence program is the best way to show you that the National Guard welcomes you with affection and with a fraternal embrace. We seek two important things: to contribute to a free and vigorous youth, and to realize General Omar Torrijos' dream of Fort Amador as a place where children and young people could run free without fear of foreign soldiers." These were the words of Col Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of staff of the National Guard, as he officially inaugurated the program. Some 4,000 youths from Panama City were at the ceremony, held at Fort Amador. Also present were Lt Col Julian Melo Borbuda, chief of Panama police; Lt Col Elias Castillo Figueroa, G-3; Lt Col Julio Young, supervisor of military zones; and Lt Col Bernardo Barrera, chief of the canal's Defense and Security Commission. [Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 8 Mar 83 pp 1A, 6B PA]

BELIZE

ROGERS COMMENTS ON NONALIGNED SUMMIT UPON RETURN

FL220210 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] The deputy prime minister and minister of defense and home affairs, Mr C.L.B Rogers, has returned home after leading the Belizean delegation to the Seventh Summit of the Nonaligned Movement, recently concluded in New Delhi. Included in the Belizean delegation were the minister of health, housing and cooperative, Mr Assad Shoman, and Belize's ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Robert Leslie.

In his address to the summit, Mr Rogers said that Belize will not compromise its independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity or nonaligned character. In reference to the problem with Guatemala, the deputy prime minister said that Belize will continue to seek ways to work out areas of cooperation for the mutual benefit of both countries.

The Belizean delegation also gave its support to the New Delhi message which was issued at the end of the summit. Mr Rogers described the message as containing a concise, sharp and comprehensive statement of the essence of our position as members of the Nonaligned Movement. Mr Rogers in commenting on the New Delhi summit today stated that the Belizean delegation fully endorsed the message which called for immediate measures to start a process of recovery and to bring the world economy to a path of [word indistinct] goals. The New Delhi message also called for the speeding up of the growth process in developing nations. An appeal was made at the summit for a halt to the arms race which is consuming the scarce resources of the planet, destroying the environment and wasting scientific genius on nonproductive and harmful purposes.

[Words indistinct] the Belizean delegation to the summit, Mr Rogers held a press conference and a television interview during which he said the Nonaligned Movement must take the responsibility for ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its member countries.

COSTA RICA

STATE OF EMERGENCY CALLED AT NICARAGUA BORDER

PA222308 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2234 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpts] San Jose, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Costa Rican Government has placed the border police on alert and has declared a state of emergency along the border with Nicaragua because of news reports of combat in various areas of Nicaragua.

The work of the two Costa Rican Police Corps, the Civil Guard and the Rural Guard, has been combined with the Public Security and Government Ministries to guarantee the sovereignty and security of the citizens who live in the border region and to attend to the immigration matters for the Nicaraguans fleeing the violence.

The Rural Guard is stationed in some six towns to take care of the hundreds of undocumented refugees who have been arriving in large numbers, seeking the safety of Costa Rica. The immigrants have said that if the struggle should spread throughout Nicaragua, the exodus will be even greater. In response to this consideration, the Costa Rican Government has requested the cooperation of international organizations such as the Red Cross and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) that are already helping the local authorities in their aid task. Health care is one of the main problems because most of the Nicaraguans who have come in are in poor health.

The Rural Guard has deployed men to the towns where more than 600 Nicaraguans who are fleeing from the violence in their country have taken refuge. The guardsmen have begun to take a census of the refugees and to vaccinate them while medical and paramedical personnel provide other services.

Meanwhile, the news conference that Eden Pastora, "Commander Cero" of the revolution against Somoza, was scheduled to hold has been cancelled. During a 10 March news conference in a San Jose hotel Pastora announced that he was getting tired of words and that action was now necessary.

Both Pastora and his supporters in San Jose have insisted that the actions to which they refer are not border attacks but in-depth organization in the interior of Nicaragua to seize power through the people opposed to communism.

However, "Commander Cero" disappeared more than a week ago and his spokesmen say that he is totally involved in the consolidation of his movement among the reservists and the democratic population of his country.

They also say that neither Pastora nor the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (Arde) have any links with the commandos of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) which attacks the Sandinists in northern Nicaragua.

Two rebel stations that claim to transmit "from somewhere in Nicaragua" are heard in San Jose some hours of the day and night.

The stations report that large amounts of war materiel have been seized from the government forces, especially Soviet-made materiel. Further, they report the presence of Cuban, Soviet, Vietnamese and Hungarian military men in the battlefronts.

HAVANA ON DEPLOYMENT OF UNITS ALONG BORDER

PA230115 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The Costa Rican Public Security Ministry has declared a state of permanent alert along its border with Nicaragua, a country that is currently confronting in its northern region a counterrevolutionary force from Honduras.

Public Security Deputy Minister Johnny Campos has disclosed that special units of the public force equipped with Israeli Galil rifles, which for the first time are being used as a regulation weapon in Costa Rica, have been deployed at various points along the border.

EL SALVADOR

COUNTERINSURGENCY DRIVE BEGINS IN CHALATENANGO

PA222028 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] According to military reports given to this station, military counterinsurgency operations began this morning in Chalatenango Department. The operations are intended to evict the groups of guerrillas freely moving about the towns in an extensive area of the department.

The sources said that for example the guerrillas have occupied the town of Tejutla for the past 3 weeks without having any problems with the townspeople. The security forces did not make any effort to reestablish order in the town, according to its civilian residents.

AIR FORCE CHIEF CALLS FOR GARCIA RESIGNATION

PA221921 Paris AFP in Spanish 1802 GMT 22 Mar 83

[By Gilberto Lopez]

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Salvadoran Air Force Commander Col Juan Rafael Bustillo in statements to AFP has insisted on the resignation of Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia.

Bustillo, who last January supported a request to that effect made by the then military commander of Cabanas Department, Col Sigifredo Ochoa, reiterated his criticism of Garcia and the military high command for what he termed "bad direction given to the struggle against the guerrillas in the country."

The military officer also disclaimed reports published by the U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES indicating that some 150 U.S. undercover agents operate in El Salvador, especially in aerial reconnaissance missions. "There aren't any in the air force, unless they are with the CIA without one's knowing about it."

Bustillo came out in favor of an end to the fighting in El Salvador. Without this an electoral process cannot resolve the conflict, he noted. "The key to the matter is that the guerrillas want to engage in dialogue, but don't want to give up their arms."

"I do not consider that position acceptable. They can participate in politics as long as they put down their arms, and that does not mean they have to form a line in front of the garrisons to deposit their weapons one by one."

"To lay down their arms means to stop the fighting. As long as they and we persist in taking up arms, the people cannot decide who should be in command. There can be elections, but if the struggle persists there will not be any healthy results," he said.

The Salvadoran Air force commander confirmed that General Garcia met with the high military command and officers last weekend and reaffirmed his intention to resign the post of defense minister, but without specifying the date. "At that meeting nobody asked him to resign, but in view of the circumstances it would be wise for him to resign," Bustillo said, noting that it must be President Magana who decides whether or not to accept it.

The differences between Bustillo and the defense minister were evidenced once again this weekend when neither General Garcia nor representatives of the high command appeared at the ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Salvadoran Air Force. "I invited all of them," Bustillo said, "without considering the existing differences. I think that they failed in their responsibilities as officers by not attending."

The differences between the two ranking military leaders, which surfaced when Colonel Ochoa rebelled, lie in their differences of opinion as to how the antiguerrilla war should be handled.

"The problem of Colonel Ochoa is not the basis of the unrest within the armed forces; it is rooted in the bad direction of the high command, which harmed us in 1982 and has harmed us thus far of 1983," he added.

"It is poor direction," he noted, "to send units that are too large out to fight and leave yourself without any reserves to cope with possible actions in other places. It is poor direction not to place the capable units where they are needed, or to make too big an effort with units and then withdraw them, permitting the guerrillas to retake the positions," he explained.

Colonel Bustillo rejected Garcia's accusations that his charges were politically motivated and denied any connection with the National Republican Alliance (Arena), an extreme rightwing organization headed by retired Maj Roberto D'Aubuisson, president of the Constituent Assembly.

On the possible infiltration of aircraft into the country carrying arms and ammunition for the guerrillas, Bustillo noted that 1 and 1/2 years ago they detected some flying in from Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua, but that there is no evidence to that effect now.

"I do not mean that the possibility does not exist that the guerrillas are being supplied with arms and ammunition by air, because they have to find the means to maintain their firepower, which is now considerable," he said.

"But I think that most supplies come by land. There may be infiltration from Honduran territory, which is vast and difficult to control," he added.

The military officer recognized that several aircraft have been overflying the eastern region of the country at night. This is the guerrilla-infested region, but there is no evidence that the planes have landed in Salvadoran territory.

"We do not know if these are U.S. intelligence aircraft or something else," he indicated. Colonel Bustillo concluded that the air force needs more capability in transport aircraft, helicopters and A-37 bombers.

"We currently have six A-37's, but some of them have been damaged by the guerrillas, while others are undergoing maintenance, which is why we cannot count on all of them; and we need at least twice that many," he concluded.

MATUTINO INTERVIEWS COL SIGIFREDO OCHOA

PA222158 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Mar 83 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Report on interview with Salvadoran Army Col Sigifredo Ochoa, granted exclusively to newsman Demetrio Olaciregui for MATUTINO newspaper in Washington; no date given]

[Text] Col Sigifredo Ochoa, who in January staged a rebellion against the Salvadoran Army high command, has urgently called for a dialogue with leftist guerrillas in a place like Panama. The colonel also said that the best presidential candidate for El Salvador is Fidel Chavez Mena, the current foreign minister.

Ochoa, who granted an exclusive interview in Washington, said that the military rebellion against Defense Minister Gen Guillermo Garcia was temporarily resolved when an agreement was reached by which Garcia would leave his post on 31 March, while the rebel officer would accept the post that he currently holds as Salvadoran representative to the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

Rebellion Occurred at Critical Moment

Explaining the January rebellion, Ochoa said that all its objectives were not achieved, because it took place on the eve of the anniversary of the insurgent offensive of 10 January 1981 and a few days before President Reagan's administration was due to certify El Salvador to Congress in order to continue military aid to the Central American nation.

"I maintain my position that General Garcia is a little Hitler; he is corrupt, traitorous and arrogant," Ochoa said, while denying that he has any presidential ambitions.

Ochoa added that the officers and townspeople of Cabanas Department had asked him to start a march from that northeastern Salvadoran department to San Salvador in order to oust General Garcia, but that he had not wanted a confrontation. Neither had he wanted to leave a strategic area for fear that it might fall into guerrilla hands.

The Cerron Grande, 5 November and San Lorenzo hydroelectic dams, which provide energy to the entire country, are located in Cabanas Department.

Dialogue With Rebels in Panama

Ochoa said that "it is necessary to initiate talks with the guerrillas immediately in order to resolve the war politically."

"If the guerrillas do not accept this initiative, then we will launch a total war," he said. He indicated that Panama is the best place in Latin America to begin the dialogue.

Ochoa said that he has excellent relations with the Panamanian National Guard General Staff and that he shares the "new mentality" which the late Gen Omar Torrijos imprinted on the Panamanian public forces.

"I have great respect for Gen Ruben Dario Paredes, who in Panamanian public life has the cohesive force of a civilian. Similarly, Col Manuel Antonio Noriega inspires my admiration as the chief of staff of one of the most professional armed forces in Latin America," Ochoa said.

Chavez Mena for President

Ochoa's initiative includes an arrangement for a dialogue, first with the guerrillas and then with all the Salvadoran political parties, regarding the December presidential elections. He considers current Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena a likely candidate for a unified platform.

Chavez Mena, a moderate Christian Democrat who is linked to the private business and professional sectors that range politically from the extreme right to social democracy, has the support of the less repressive sectors of the army and the Catholic Church. Chavez Mena is also a man in whom the U.S. Administration has great confidence, and he has good relations with the Governments of Costa Rica and Honduras. The Panamanian Government recently awarded the country's highest decoration to the Salvadoran foreign minister.

(The Salvadoran Christian Democracy today must choose between Former President Napoleon Duarte and Chavez Mena as the party's candidates for the December elections, in the convention that has been convoked in San Salvador.)

Ochoa Has Significant Support

Even though he did not specify which political forces support him, Ochoa affirmed that he is in Washington representing an important sector of majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels within the Salvadoran Armed Forces, which would like to take up again the military principles that inspired the most moderate army sectors to stage the 1979 coup against the ultrarightist General Carlos Humberto Romero.

According to Washington analysts, Ochoa's movement has strong links with the U.S. Administration through the National Security Council and the Pentagon. The colonel confirmed that his movement has the support of the Salvadoran Air Force, the 1st Infantry Brigade, the 2d Cavalry Brigade and the command posts of Morazan, San Miguel, San Vicente, Usulutan, Santa and Sonsonate. He also said he has the support of the elite Atlacatl, Ramon Belloso and Atonal battalions, as well as the special forces in San Francisco Gotera.

Rejected Links With D'Aubuisson

Ochoa denied any links with extreme rightist former Maj Roberto d'Aubuisson, president of the Constituent Assembly, or with D'Aubuission's party, the Republican Nationalist Alliance (Arena). According to the media, Arena might want Ochoa as its presidential candidate in the December elections.

Ochoa also described himself as "an alternative between the radical left and extreme right," insisting that he has no presidential aspirations but that he wants to serve as a factor of unity for all the forces which wish to participate in the pacification of El Salvador.

Educated in the military school of El Salvador, Mexico and Taiwan, the 40-year-old military officer speaks with confidence and energy. He has spontaneity but also an obvious sense of power.

Supports Free Enterprise and Civil Power

Ochao said, "I believe in a capitalism of free enterprise and the subordination of military power to political power." He said that he would agree to having a civilian head the Defense Ministry.

He based his statement on the experience he acquired during the 17 months he headed the Cabanas command, where 90 percent of the department was in the hands of the insurgents. Fighting an unconventional war, with 1,200 soldiers and without U.S. advisers, Ochoa managed to pacify the whole department.

Ochoa explained that the secret was to employ tactics used in guerrilla warfare, forming units of 12 to 15 men who were sent on long patrols lasting 15 to 20 days. The troops took care of the social and economic problems of the residents and encouraged them to supply information on the guerrillas' activities.

"The most important thing is to know the customs and needs of the people, to attend to them, and later get them participate in government plans, he stated.

"I am a soldier who understands the People"

Ochoa said, "I am soldier who understands the people. I am neither a communist nor a fascist, but a country man who understands that one must seek an understanding between the military and the people." He also mentioned that corruption is the army's enemy. "Above the guerrillas, our main enemy is corruption," he pointed out.

"General Garcia betrayed us all. [He also betrayed] -- the United States. He has corrupted the general staff and now he has to go. If he does not agree to leave peacefully, we will force him to leave," he stressed.

U.S. Congress sources have said that the Salvadoran military high command is doubling the cost of ammunitions and military spare parts and appropriating for themselves large sums of aid money. In 3 years, the United States has sent $750 million in military and economic aid to El Salvador.

Initiative for Dialogue Is Not a Weakness

Ochoa said that the initiative for a dialogue with the guerrillas is not a sign of weakness on the part of the army, but of interest in avoiding greater suffering for the people who are caught between the groups in conflict.

"The main obstacle for dialogue with the guerrillas is the present high command, which is why we must reorganize it completely," he said. Ochoa added, "We don't demand a prior agenda. We want to sit and talk with the guerrillas and later establish the points for negotiation."

He admitted that the war cannot be won with weapons, but by focusing on the social, economic and political problems. "Our movement supports the reforms. We will continue these reforms and strengthen them," he said.

He is aware that for a dialogue to take place, at least 2/3 the parties involved must agree to it. "I believe that this is the last chance to straighten things out politically. If the initiative does not find an echo among the guerrillas, then we will launch ourselves into total war," he firmly said.

With all that deepening a war in El Salvador means, "we are in a position to reject U.S. military aid. What we need the most are boots and uniforms for the troops."

"If the guerrillas don't agree to hold a dialogue, we will renew our military tactics. Without the help of U.S. advisers and after a period of greater profesionalism, we would be in a position to give the guerrilla movement the final blow," he added in very serious tones.

PAIS MEMBERS PREPARE FOR COMING ELECTIONS

PA221340 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Station interview with Deputy Carmen Canas de Lazo of the Salvadoran Authentic Institutionalist Party; place not given -- live]

[Text] [Question] What is your party doing with regard to the coming elections?

[Answer] We are waiting for the electoral board to confirm our party's legal status as a registered party. The Salvadoran Authentic Institutionalist Party, PAIS is a new party, but the advancing of the date for the elections does not hurt us because it applies equally to all parties. We are going to hold a seminar on Saturday and Sunday at the party headquarters. Delegates from all departments will attend to discuss the party's programs.

[Question] Could you discuss your party's growth in San Salvador and other departments?

[Answer] Members of the party's directorate have toured the country -- especially departmental capitals -- in a civic-cultural program, since as of now we cannot engage in a vote-gathering campaign because the electoral board has not given us confirmation of our status as legally registered party. We have obtained very good results in these visits.

[Question] One last question. In your tours throughout the country, how has your party been accepted by former members of the National Conciliation Party?

[Answer] We have been asking citizens to join our party. We have had no problems with members of the other parties. We have been warmly welcomed. We have held seminars attended by more than 100 people. We do not ask them what party they belong to, because we believe that is not right. We work with the people who come to hear us. We have held cultural and political sessions with them.

RADIO VENCEREMOS REPORTS ON FMLN ACTIVITIES

Political Prisoners' Communique

PA230252 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] On 20 March, political prisoners in all the country's prisons discontinued a 36-day hunger strike because their goals were satisfactorily met, according to reports from the Committee of Relatives for the Release of Political Prisoners and Missing Prisoners of El Salvador.

In a public communique, the committee states that the political prisoners' demands include the immediate and unconditional release of all the political prisoners and the nullification of anticonstitutional and antijuridical decrees. The communique adds that the strike helped prove the regime's insensitivity and demagogy regarding the sacrifice of its political prisoners.

The communique adds that Pope John Paul's visit to the country has not changed the political prisoners' situation because the government used the event for its own propagandist and demagogic campaign and not to solve the people's problems.

The communique also notes that the government tried to maintain a wall of silence concerning the hunger strike and points to the silence of the Catholic Church's high hierarchy and the indifference of the Salvadoran Bar Association. The communique says that the political prisoners' request to the bar association was ignored.

The communique also says that the government's peace and human rights commissions have equally demagogic roles, and this is nothing new.

The communique ends by saying: We reaffirm our intent to continue struggling until we achieve the release of all political prisoners and missing Salvadorans. We call on democratic governments, peoples and organizations and humanitarian organizations to take action which will aid the political prisoners and missing.

Central Front Activities

PA231152 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The following information has arrived from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Chalatenango:

At 2300 on 18 March, FMLN forces attacked enemy positions in El Limon, 8 km from Chalatenango, on the road to the 4th Infantry Battalion post in El Paraiso, on the northern highway.

During these actions, our forces recovered 4 U.S.-made M-16 rifles, 1 Czech rifle and 1 G-3 rifle. Eight of the dictatorship's soldiers were killed and 1 taken prisoner, then released.

The following information has also come from Chalatenango: On 19 March, in the town of Concepcion, Quezaltepeque, the bridge over the (Totolco) river was completely blown up and our forces sabotaged the electricity and telephone communications.

The fighting ended at 0930 on 19 March. Traffic was interrupted because the bridge had been blown up.

United to fight until the final victory; revolution or death; we shall defeat them! (Signed) Commander (Dimas Rodriguez)

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT SETS STRICT SECURITY IN CAPITAL

PA230326 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] The government has announced that, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the coup which ousted the regime of General Romero Lucas, strict vigilance will be maintained in the capital. In a combined Police-Army operation, the security forces will remain vigilant tonight and tomorrow, to prevent terrorist acts which subversive groups might organize in an attempt to disrupt tomorrow's celebrations organized by the government. The events will be held in the capital.

SPOKESMAN DENIES RIOS MONTT WILL RESIGN

PA222335 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Mar 83 p 12

[Excerpt] Gonzalo Asturias Montenegro, public relations secretary of the presidency, said yesterday that it is totally untrue that President Rios Montt is going to resign from the presidency as has been rumored without any basis abroad.

Some international press agency reports have said that General Rios Montt might resign as Guatemalan president. According to the reports, the resignation might occur tomorrow on the first anniversary of the coup d'etat that overthrew the Lucas Garcia regime.

Commenting on those reports, spokesman Asturias said that General Rios Montt has firm support from the people, since during his year in government the president has held his head high, maintained a framework of strict honesty, ended corruption and carried out important projects for thousands of Guatemalans who had been abandoned for many years.

Asturias Montenegro said that President Rios Montt will continue onward, undertaking projects to benefit the people.

RIOS MONTT ON AMNESTY, POPULAR 'INDIFFERENCE'

PA211712 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Weekly address to the nation delivered by Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt -- live or recorded]

[Excerpts] As of 23 March, we will begin implementing procedures that will strengthen justice and the people's wellbeing.

This attitude, of course, reflects the changes that have taken place in you and your family, in society. Because of this, we decided at a cabinet meeting to grant an amnesty to those brothers of ours who are involved in an illegal armed struggle to seize power, in an effort to affect the interest of the nation.

I want to state that there is no longer any justification for an armed struggle among brothers. There is no longer any reason for continuing it.

The government has proven its capabilities. It has also admitted its errors and weaknesses. The government derives part of its strength from its promise that we are prepared to change if you, the subversives, take our hand. We are calling it amnesty for reconciliation. Let's forgive each other, for we have hurt each other and, most important, we have hurt the integrity and the unity of the people, of families, of workers.

On Wednesday we will publish the laws that will establish the political means for initiating the process of returning to constitutionality. It is our intention that proposals to initiate a process of true political activities, but not politicking, be made.

It must also be admitted that polls have shown that there is a great indifference among the people. We tell them that this is a characteristic of loafers and fools. Those who do not develop political maturity will, sooner or later, fall into the hands of cheap politicians, who will grow like weeds and again govern the country as if the people were puppets, thereby provoking another coup d'etat, and we would again have to start from the beginning.

The sad part of the current situation is that a new coup d'etat would put us in a situation similar to that being endured by our neighbors. So you must participate with dignity and zealously watch over the future of your nation. You are responsible for the strength and maintenance of our nationality.

I have already said that there will be no limitations on any group that wants to participate in political life. However, I insist that this participation reflect the fact that we are a people who love peace.

We want neither tears nor blood, but a spirit that should be a manifestation of respect for Guatemala and Guatemalism. Let the world hear this: We want to be Guatemala -- with our history, our limitations and our culture. We don't want to be subjected to enslaving foreign interests that impede our authentic nationality. We don't want extremism, we want Guatemalism for the Guatemalans.

EL PAIS REPORTS INTERVIEW WITH RIOS MONTT

PM212031 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 16 Mar 83 p 4

[Jesus Ceberio report containing interview with Guatemalan President Rios Montt "conducted jointly by three European journalists" -- no place, date given]

[Excerpt] Question: What was the political, social and religious impact of the pope's visit to Guatemala?

Answer: The importance of the pope's visit is considerable. I believe that the most important thing is that he came to teach that what is laid down must be fulfilled. Otherwise, no results can be achieved.

Question: Who lays down what is laid down?

Answer: The Bible.

Question: The pope has openly come out against the violation of human life. What is your opinion, as an evangelical, as a general and as head of state?

Answer: The pope is right to advocate what he wishes; he also has the right to do so. Now I am not an evangelical; I am simply a Christian and, as much, I have a Christian attitude and character, a morality and a concept of life. What happens to what is sown? It is reaped.

Question: It has been said that executing six people a few days before the pope's arrival, regardless of the fact that it was within Guatemala's rights, was not the most fortunate thing for its external relations.

Answer: That is so.

Question: How do you judge this matter?

Answer: As an awareness of doing justice and not as the weakness of allowing people to do as they please.

Question: But there are lawyers who say that there is no such justice, because it is not even known what court is involved, and the defense is conducted not before the judge but by letter....

Answer: I would like you to go and ask the chairman of the Supreme Court that, because he is the master of justice in Guatemala. I am an executive, a president, who has nothing to do with justice.

(The prevailing legislation on courts of special jurisdiction, which try a large number of crimes which may be directly or indirectly connected with subversion, does however reserve to the president the power to appoint judges among lawyers or military personnel.)

Question: Do you believe that your government is stronger or weaker than 6 months ago? What factors make it stronger or weaker?

Answer: A government's strength or weakness involves the party which has run it. This is a question which a party president is asked. But I acceded without votes and without boots. So a government's strength lies in the justice it does. And I believe that I am stronger.

Question: Although you have said that you are not seeking votes, your language greatly resembles that of an election campaign. So what are you doing?

Answer: I am conducting a campaign; seeking Guatemala. They wish to bring it to us and impose it on us from outside, and we wish to be Guatemala. That is my campaign.

Question: Within the "guns and beans" program, I would like to know what is the relative importance of each of the elements.

Answer: The importance which the guns used to have has now diminished. We are extremely interested in the beans, because violence, subversion and politicking are governed in Guatemala by hunger, ignorance and poverty.

Question: To what extent could this become a development plan?

Answer: To the extent of knowing what the real potential for developing ourselves is, because all that we have become accustomed to with gifts and foreign programs is to having people do things for us.

Question: How do you view the timetable for democratization?

Answer: I believe that it will be a matter of deeds. As we create the real elements for a return to constitutionally, we will have the opportunity to see whether what we are planning is or is not effective.

Question: But two or three of the four decrees which you are preparing will be published 23 March?

Answer: Three, including the decree on political priorities.

Question: As for an idea of a timetable, there are people who say that it will take about a year to elect the constituent assembly, about another year to draft the constitution and about another year more to call an election, which would lead you to serve a 4-year term....

Answer: And why not 10 years?

Question: There are some problems with the United States over the disappearance of four Agency for International Development (AID) people. Some diplomats have noted that this happened 9 February, just 1 day after the U.S. and the Spanish woman accused of subversion were released. Is there not in this an intention to maintain constant tension with the United States?

Answer: Guatemala cannot do that. It is such a small and insignifanct country that it cannot allow itself the luxury of even demanding a right as a nation. What are we in the context of global strategy? We are nothing.

Question: But Guatemala has always been characterized by the strength of its nationalism.

Answer: Where? Did you not hear what I have just told the teachers to their faces? Where are Chiapas and Tabasco and Central America, if they were ours?

Question: Could they become yours again?

Answer: No, we do not want them. What we want is to be ourselves; because, otherwise, El Salvador will extend as far as Jutiapa, Quezaltenango will to to Mexico, and God knows whose Guatemala will be.

Question: Your defense minister has said that Israel is Guatemala's best friend. What is your opinion?

Answer: I will ask my minister. I do not know [laughs]

Question: Could you tell me anything about the nonexistent relations with Spain? Is there any chance of their being restored soon?

Answer: Every chance, every chance. It is what we would like. The only thing is that El Pais (laughs again) and CAMBIO 16 seem unwilling to give us the opportunity. They have committed the socialist government deeply. You know that we can say absolutely nothing. The time of the throne, the time of the colony is over. The current throne is different, and I believe that it should be far more magnanimous. Let them teach us now to react, because otherwise we will react vehemently. We wish to react as human beings and as a nation. That is vital. They want us to recognize some things which... really cannot be recognized. (The Guatemalan president is referring to the explanations sought by the Spanish Government on account of the 30 January 1980 police attack on the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala City -- an occurence in which over 30 people died, without any explanation having yet been given.)

Question: What does it mean for Guatemala that there is war in El Salvador?

Answer: That there is war in El Salvador. What it does not mean is that I am going to kneel down and weep, which is what they would do and what they are doing there.

Question: What does being religious and head of state mean for you?

Answer: I am not religious; I am a Christian. I am a man of character who faces up to himself.

Question: Is there no danger of there being a Khomeyni in Guatemala?

Answer: Well, only if there were an Iran here. But Guatemala is different. You saw that religious demonstration which occurred with the pope. That is different.

Question: To what do you attribute your success?
Answer: To my being obedient.
Question: To whom?
Answer: To God.
Question: To what God?
Answer: To mine.

Question: Does God tell you what you must do?

Answer: No, do not be ungracious to me, because that is politicizing many things. I beg you, please, let us not confuse some things with others. I am a man who fears God, and I admit it. I tell you and the world straight. I fear God. But that God should telephone me and say to me: "Look, Efrain..." -- that is an absurdity. But I do pray.

Question: From where do you draw your inspiration?

Answer: From the need to wish to exist. Facing you costs me a sacrifice; look how I am perspiring. It costs me an effort. I do not have the education you have. I am simply a Christian, and having to face up to myself is a very serious matter. Who can give me the strength? You will call it psychology, philosophy or some other kind of doctrine. I call it God.

GOVERNMENT FIRING SQUAD EXECUTES FIVE MEN

FL211655 Bridgetown CANA in English 1435 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, March 21, CANA-REUTER -- Five men were executed by firing squad early today after a secret military tribunal found them guilty of crimes ranging from murder and rape to kidnapping and theft, informed sources said.

Today's execution brought to 15 the number of Guatemalans killed by firing squad since the coup a year ago which brought President Efrain Rios Montt to power. He imposed a state of siege on his country last July and announced the establishment of special military tribunals.

The government made no statement on today's executions but an employee of Guatemala City's central cemetery said the five men died before dawn.

The executions came a day after Guatemala's college of lawyers said the law which set up the secret tribunals "is technically and juridically wrong and constitutes an attack on civil liberties."

A government statement last Saturday said the five executed today had been members of a 10-man gang of 7 soldiers and 3 civilians who had terrorised the population of Guatemala's capital with a long string of violent crimes.

The five were sentenced to death on March 17, two weeks after the government ignored pleas from the Vatican and executed six alleged leftists on the eve of the visit here of Pope John Paul.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS NEW BORDER 'AGGRESSIONS'

PA230218 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0205 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Managua, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government today denounced new attacks by members of the Honduran Army against Nicaraguan positions along the north-eastern border.

The Managua Foreign Ministry issued a bulletin tonight reporting that on 20 March, Honduran Army units stationed in "Las Lomas de los Pastores" attacked the Nicaraguan observation post in "Vado Ancho" with rifle and mortar fire.

On the afternoon of that same day a second harassment attack was carried out against an observation post located 2 km south of "Santo Tomas de Nance," in Chinandega Department which borders on Honduras.

The official report states that the Sandinist army "did not respond to the attack in order to avoid more serious consequences."

The message denouncing these attacks was sent to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica. It also mentions the deployment of Honduran Army soldiers along the border across from the Nicaraguan town of "Palo Verde," 2 km west of "Santo Tomas de Nance."

At the same time that it protests these new "aggressions" from Honduran territory, the Nicaraguan Government has also asked the Honduran Government for "moderation" and requests that the Honduran Government do everything possible to stop a "greater deterioration of the situation."

TINOCO DENOUNCES ANTI-SANDINIST AGGRESSION AT UN

PA230426 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Mar 83

[News conference by Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan deputy foreign minister and representative to the UN Security Council, at UN headquarters in New York on 22 March; with paragraph by paragraph translation into English -- recorded]

[Excerpt] We want to emphasize that there is serious apprehension and fear in the Nicaraguan revolutionary leadership and among various Latin American leaders that a whole master plan might exist aimed at dealing more strategic blows to the Nicaraguan revolution. This plan might involve other Central American forces and would further endanger peace in the region.

In this regard, I want to call your attention to four specific events:

1. I want to remind you that most of the forces that have entered the country, some 1,500, are in the mountainous region near the Honduran border and that any kind of combat there could serve as a voluntary or involuntary pretext for involving Honduran Army troops in combat. In this regard, we want to stress that the Nicaraguan Government emphatically stated in its communique yesterday that it will defend its territory up to the limit of its borders and not beyond in order to avoid provocations.

2. The Honduran Army is concentrating troops in the rearguard on Honduran territory across from where the counterrevolutionary bands are operating.

3. The Honduran Army is concentrating a large number of troops in the zone of Choluteca, in the Honduran area bordering on the Nicaraguan Pacific region, Chinandega Department.

4. In the Pacific area where those concentrations of Honduran troops have taken place, today, only 2 hours ago, there was heavy mortar fire from the Honduran Army against the town of Santo Tomas de Nance in Nicaragua. That attack occurred at 1606 and was repeated at 1735.

These four events confirm the fears that large-scale military actions aimed at destroying the Sandinist revolution could be taking shape around these diversionary actions by the counterrevolution in the country's central zone.

I only want to remind you that in the 1980 Republican Party platform the leaders of the current U.S. Administration expressed very clearly and in an unprecedented manner their willingness to support the forces that might try to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolutionary regime. I want to remind you of the plans discovered by the U.S. press with regard to the $19.9 million which we think is just part of a bigger package to support the Somozist bands against the Nicaraguan revolution. All the current facts show that the main leaders of the Reagan administration have not changed their minds yet. [last sentence in English by Tinoco]

In reference to this and in conclusion, I want to point out that in view of the seriousness of the situation, the Nicaraguan Government has decided to call for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. We have spoken with the president of the Security Council and we have requested this meeting for either tomorrow afternoon or Thursday morning. We are waiting for the decision of the presidency in this regard.

NO INVITATION RECEIVED FOR REGIONAL MEETING

PA221719 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] As of this morning, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had not yet received any official notification of, let alone invitation to, the meeting of foreign ministers of Central America and the Caribbean that will probably take place on Wednesday. The foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Jamaica and the Domician Republic will participate in the meeting, with the foreign ministers of Central America attending as observers. The purpose of the meeting is to find viable formulas for bringing about peace. More specifically, the participants are interested in bringing an end to the fratricidal war in El Salvador and the warlike threats that Honduras and the United States have been making against Nicaragua.

The basis of the meeting to be held in the Dominican Republic is the agreement that was reached on Contadora Island, Panama, where Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama reaffirmed their intention to guarantee peace in the Central American area.

In any case, the Nicaraguan revolutionary government is more interested than ever in learning of the decisions adopted by the friendly countries that will go to the Dominican Republic with the firm desire to guarantee peace in this strip of Latin American territory.

FDN ISSUES REPORT ON STATUS OF FIGHTING

PA211938 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1715 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Front; date and place not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] The (Jorge Salazar) Combat Force announces that the areas of San Ramon and San Dionisio have been taken. Fierce fighting is underway on the plains of Muy Muy, and the highway to Rio Blanco is intermittently under our control. There is no traffic at this time from either Matagalpa or Boarco.

The enemy has sustained numerous casualties. The (Yaro) and El Guabo posts have been set on fire, while the posts at Pancasan, Cerro Colorado, (Los Patriotas) and (?Guzman) have been taken.

From Jinotega Department, it has been reported that a green Toyota station wagon belonging to state security was destroyed during an ambush in Las Cruces, killing one enemy soldier and injuring another.

REBEL FDN REPORTS 300 SANDINIST CASUALTIES

PA212120 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2050 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 21 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The rightists who oppose the Nicaraguan Government said today that their commandos inflicted some 300 casualties on the government troops during heavy fighting only 100 km from Managua.

The statement was made in a declaration that the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) made issued in Honduras. The FDN seeks to overthrow the FSLN, which has governed Nicaragua since the ouster of rightwing dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979. The FDN said that the most intense fighting has occurred near Muy Muy, 100 km northeast of Managua.

In Managua today, the Sandinist leadership said that it is preparing a news conference on the battles, which diplomatic sources described as some of the most intense since the end of Nicaragua's civil war.

The FDN communique said that the "liberation commandos" were in action in the Nicaraguan central department of Matagalpa and also in Nueva Segovia, near the Honduran border, where the anticommunist fighters have seized control of several roads. The fighting has caused concern in Costa Rica, Nicaragua's neighbor.

A high-ranking government official said today that Costa Rica will take strict measures to control the entrance of refugees fleeing the fighting. Armando Arauz, second vice president and chief of the National Security Council of Costa Rica, said that the government fears that the latest influx of refugees could bring about "the infiltration of people who could endanger the Costa Ricans' calm."

Costa Rica has reported that in only 5 days last week some 600 Nicaraguans fled to that country. Political observers have stressed that the FDN communique on the fighting was issued in Honduras, a country the Sandinists have frequently accused of helping the armed rightwingers who operate from bases on the border with Nicaragua. The FDN was formed in Miami by members of the disbanded Somozist National Guard and its training camps were cited as proof of U.S. complicity in the efforts to overthrow the Managua leadership.

FDN LEADER PREDICTS DEFEAT OF SANDINIST REGIME

PA221701 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1551 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Enrique Bermudez Varela, who is in charge of the military branch of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), denied here today that his movement has any connections abroad.

"Nicaragua's problems are internal and must be resolved without foreign interference," the FDN leader said. He added: "Therefore, the Cuban mercenaries, Montoneros, Tupamaros, East Germans, PLO members and all the internationals who are controlling the country now have no business there."

Bermudez predicted "the defeat of the Sandinist regime and the expulsion of all the internationalists," anticipating this as a "sure thing. The armed struggle is only the culmination of this process. We have the military strength, and we are going to change the bad things the Sandinists have done in Nicaragua," Bermudez Varela stated.

The anti-Sandinist said that the struggle in Nicaragua has spread from the Atlantic coast to Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Chontales and Boaco, and "there is also bitter fighting in the urban centers."

Bermundez Varela denied that his men are terrorists, and explained that they are trying "as much as possible to avoid destruction and bloodshed."

The FDN leader said it would be well if the Sandinists "understand that we have the strength and the necessary capability to defeat them, and that rather than go through all this they should look for a way to leave the Nicaraguan Government.

The FDN military leader insisted that his struggle is supported by the people of Nicaragua, adding that otherwise "we could not be waging a battle in the mountains or anyplace else."

The Nicaraguan opposition leader also said that the anti-Sandinist struggle is not directed against the Sandinist People's Army. "The struggle is against the established state of affairs and against the nine commanders who have led the country to the brink of chaos," he stated.

The anti-Sandinist leader said optimistically that "the hour of liberation has arrived in Nicaragua, because this is the end of the Sandino-Communist regime."

FDN DIRECTORATE ISSUES PEACE INITIATIVE

PA222121 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 21 Mar 83 p 25

[Paid advertisement by the National Directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, dated "March 1983"]

[Text] On 13 January 1983, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) issued a peace initiative that was well distributed throughout the world. Despite the passage of sufficient time, this initiative has been ignored by the Nicaraguan Government. Our initiative exhorted the Sandinist regime to comply with the objectives and basic principles of the Nicaraguan revolution, as stated originally by the regime itself.

The Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction in its plan to achieve peace -- which according to them was based "on the resolution issued by the 17th OAS consultative meeting of 23 June 1979" -- committed itself before the Nicaraguan people, the OAS and the world to comply faithfully with the original government program of June 1979 and the basic statute both of which are a part of the plan. The junta made these commitments in a letter to the secretary general on 12 July.

In view of the violation of those commitments, which have led to a contrary process of totalitarian Marxist dictatorship, there have been many complaints by Nicaraguan democratic parties and by us. These demands, however, have been ignored by the Sandinist government.

The majority of the Latin American governments, in fact, have not given consideration to these civic and patriotic demands, made according to the OAS agreements and its charter.

Not even the critical fact that Nicaragua has become a base of Soviet aggression against the security of our continent has moved the American governments to start the collective political and diplomatic action contemplated in the inter-American treaties.

It appears that the nations of the continent -- and it is unfortunate to admit it -- are awaiting new bloodshed and sacrifice from the Nicaraguan people before beginning some type of diplomatic action. It would appear that the American nations are waiting for the Nicaraguan people to start a new war to save themselves and the other countries from the totalitarian Marxist threat.

Convinced of this sad reality, we have organized an authentic national army, the true national army as conceived in the government program and the revolution's basic principles. This army is made up of patriotic Nicaraguans of all democratic parties and organizations, thousands of Miskito brothers, officers and troops of the former national guard not connected with the crimes of the Somozist dictatorship and even members of the Sandinist army and militias that have joined our ranks to avoid becoming accomplices of the Marxist tyranny imposed on our country.

Fighting is already underway in the Nicaraguan mountains. We realize the fight will be hard and difficult, but we are determined to make sacrifice, trusting that the free nations of America and the world will not abandon a people like the Nicaraguans, who fought for their freedom and will continue to do so against all types of despotism and tyranny.

Under these circumstances we want to clearly and precisely define the urgent future principles and objectives of our struggle:

1. We declare our rejection of any attempt to link us to the Somozist past. The Somozist dictatorship died in July 1979, and it is buried politically in history and physically in the person of the dictator.

2. We uphold the nationalistic and patriotic historical figure of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino, instead of the self-serving distortion of his figure by international Marxism through the FSLN, whose members would be repudiated by Sandino if he were alive, just as he repudiated the Salvadoran communist Farabundo Marti and many others.

3. We insist that only the Nicaraguan people, through free, just and honest elections, have the right to choose the path of their revolution, its principles and scope within the broadest democratic pluralism, and to determine what political party should assume the responsibilities of the national government.

4. Once our country is liberated from Marxism, we intend to establish a representative provisional government junta, which will rule provisionally by decree and will appoint a cabinet with representatives of the democratic parties and other active forces of the country.

5. We declare that we are not moved by hatred or revenge. All honest public employees with democratic ideals and not linked to the Marxist conspiracy will be able to serve the state administration.

Likewise, members of the Sandinist army and police who are not involved in crimes and who may show democratic sentiments may, if they so wish, join the national army and police in the measure and number these institutions may require. However, we warn the thousands of Marxist foreigners, the so-called "internationalists" who occupy and subdue our country, to abandon our territory immediately because we shall be unyielding with them if they fail to leave.

6. Our basic objectives is to fully and effectively guarantee human rights as they are contemplated in the American Human Rights Commission. To accomplish this goal, it will be necessary to revise the procedures outside the law and the special courts, as recommended by the International Jurists Commission; the gradual restitution of confiscated properties to their rightful owners will also be necessary. It is equally imperative to restore full freedom of religion and to release the confiscated churches.

7. We shall restore university autonomy which has been infringed upon and revise the educational programs in all levels to adapt them to the democratic principles and the spiritual nature of our culture and nationality.

8. We will guarantee full freedom of labor and professional association.

9. We will revise the present agrarian reform, extending provisional and later definite property deeds to the peasants, not only for use, as the Marxist government has done.

10. We will draft a balanced national budget which will be revealed to the Nicaraguan people in detail.

11. We will immediately institute a policy of austerity in public expenditures; we will also provide production incentives in order to encourage our national economy.

12. We will maintain diplomatic relations with all nations, on the basis of strict reciprocity and absolute adherence to the principle of nonintervention in our internal affairs. Our foreign policy will be based on American solidarity and its juridical foundations, without detriment to our respect for international commitments with other nations of the world and with the UN.

13. We reiterate our intention to call elections for the municipal authorities and a national constitutent assembly within a year. In fact, as expression of our people's will, the national constituent assembly shall draw up a new constitutional system for Nicaragua. In order to fulfill this objective, we will request the advice and participation of all democratic national sectors.

In essence, these are our basic principles and objectives. Our struggle is already underway in the mountains of Nicaragua. Soon we shall inflict crippling blows on the Marxist tyranny which is oppressing our people. We trust that the collective action of the continent's nations will help prevent a protracted and bloody war and will stop further loss of Nicaraguan lives.

We reiterate our faith in God, in our people, in the free people of the world and in the principles of freedom, justice and democracy.

National Directorate. Nicaraguan Democratic Force, March 1983. [signed] Frank Arana, Edgar Chamorro Coronel, Enrique Bermudez Varela, Marco A. Zeledon Rosales, Indalecio Rodriguez Alaniz, Mrs Lucia de Salazar, Alfonso Callejas Deshon, Adolfo Calero Portocarrero.

COMMANDER BALTODANO DISCUSSES REGIONALIZATION

PA192103 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] A real democracy is that in which the people participate fully in the state's affairs, Commander Monica Baltodano, coordinating secretary of the Regional Coordination Organization, said in an interview with this station, in which she referred to the various aspects of the administrative decentralization that the revolutionary government is undertaking within the regionalization process.

This measure, announced by the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction [JGRN] during a public rally in Masaya on 19 July 1982, seeeks to strengthen and improve state administration through the plans promoted by the Sandinist revolution. In this respect, Commander Baltodano talked about organized and significant participation by the people. Here is what she said:

[Begin recording] Regionalization, as understood by the FSLN National Directorate and the JGRN, is a way of improving popular participation in state administration. However, this is not its only objective. Essentially, it seeks to promote the harmonious development of all of the country's regions. But for this to take place, the people's participation is necessary.

Another purpose of regionalization is to allow the JGRN to delegate some of its functions to representatives in the various regions, establishing a revolutionary council and other organizations, such as economic and social commissions. In other words, the purpose is to secure popular participation in the administration of the revolutionary government, which will help to achieve the incoropration and active participation of the people in the administration of the state. However, this is not going to happen overnight. Only through a development process of popular organizations can this participation take place in an organized way.

To date, the revolutionary council is the broadest form in the region of popular participation in the development process. A meeting involving representatives of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, of state institutions, of municipal councils and of mass organizations will be held every 6 months.

The revolutionary council will submit, for discussion at the meeting by the organized people and their leaders, the work plan and economic program for the region for both the medium term and the 6-month period. The revolutionary council will also be informed during the meeting of the work accomplished during the previous 6 months. We feel that this is a way to give more participation, in an organized way, to the people.

In addition to all of this, regionalization will lead to a more careful study of the system of local authorities, including the structure of municipalities and the establishment of area organizations.

The concept of popular, democratic elections of municipal authorities has been very effective, in that the people have been replacing those members of municipal councils who have failed. However, this process is still not too well defined, which is why the regionalization plan also seeks to permit further analysis of the municipalities' experiences. This implies democratic participation by the people in the election of their municipal leaders. [end recording]

Explaining the results of the first 6-month plan, Commander Baltodano said:

[Begin recording] Results are already coming in. In the first place, regionalization is closely linked to economic planning.

The FSLN National Directorate and the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction have stressed that in order to overcome our critical economic situation, in order to implement the new economic plan, regional development and other plans the FSLN had in mind for the country's economic and social development, we must be very careful in using the country's resources and very demanding in order to increase productivity and the output of enterprises. This is so because what we produce, all the benefits of good management of agricultural, industrial and other enterprises, will have a positive effect on our country's economy and society.

In order to implement these plans, we follow the principles of economic planning. Planning and regionalization are closely linked. In other words, it is necessary that we stick to the FSLN National Directorate guidelines and plans in order to have harmonious development. If everyone starts doing as they please without following a specific plan, we would waste effort and resources on projects that would have to be abandoned because they did not follow the plan's specifications. [end recording]

MALMIERCA STRESSES WILLINGNESS TO HOLD DIALOGUE

PA230110 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Mar 83

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said that the U.S. refusal to accept the path of negotiations to solve the conflict in El Salvador is worrisome because it is evident, he stressed, that the Salvadoran Army does not have any possibility of defeating the guerrilla movement. Malmierca said that there are two options in this regard: The triumph of the guerrilla forces and a political solution through negotiations; and the other option, which would be U.S. military intervention. This option would have unforeseeable consequences for the region.

In remarks to the Mexican newspaper EL DIA, Malmierca reiterated Cuba's support for the peace efforts carried out by Mexico for Central America. He stressed that all can contribute to finding the solution that, through political negotiations, can open the way to changing the Central American situation.

Cuba has been and is willing to start a process of dialogue with the United States on the basis of equality, mutual respect and respect for Cuban sovereignty, Isidoro Malmierca stressed. The Cuban foreign minister also referred to the Seventh Nonaligned Summit conference held in New Delhi recently. He stressed that the meeting's final declaration is a call to all the world's forces to encourage peace and development and to halt the arms race.

MALMIERCA ENDS VISIT TO SPAIN, VIEWS TRIP

FL211355 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said that his official visit to Spain had very fruitful and useful results. He stressed that he was pleasantly impressed with the reception that the Spanish officials gave him. Malmierca concluded a 2-day official visit to Spain on Friday during which he was received by Spanish King Juan Carlos I and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

The Cuban foreign minister said that all the Spanish officials he met expressed a desire to strengthen Spanish-Cuban relations in all areas. In addition, he said that they agreed on positions regarding the main international issues they discussed. These issues included a need for peace, an end to the arms buildup and participation in efforts to ease tension.

TORRAS ATTACKS U.S. POSITION ON SEA CONVENTION

FL181725 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1222 GMT 18 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston -- The formation of the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea constitute a forward step toward the achievement of a new world economic order, Pelegrin Torras, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, said in the Jamaica capital. Torras heads the Cuban delegation to the meeting, which opened yesterday to form the preparatory commission.

He told PRENSA LATINA that the United States has been maintaining an arrogant and divisionist position against the Law of the Sea Convention as evidenced by a recent statement [saying it would claim] a 200-mile exclusive economic zone. Torras explained that the establishment of the preparatory commission held great significance since it would be called on to assign work to investors to begin exploration of the vast mineral resources of the seabed.

HART CALLS FOR SETTLEMENT OF SALVADORAN CONFLICT

FL222050 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Paris -- Cuban Culture Minister Armando Hart today called on the international public, particularly the French, to work for a negotiated and peaceful settlement in El Salvador. During the course of an interview granted to France's First Television Network, Hart cited the French-Mexican declaration on El Salvador and said the time had come to mobilize forces and demand the fulfillment of the aspirations of the Salvadoran revolutionary forces: A peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Hart is in France to open an exposition tomorrow dedicated to Cuban painter Wilfredo Lam. The Cuban Politburo member met with Georges Marchais, secretary general of the French Communist Party, and is slated to meet with other French political figures.

RAUL CASTRO HOLDS TALKS WITH PDRY'S QASIM

FL221336 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and FAR minister, yesterday held talks with Brigadier Salih Muslih Qasim, defense minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. During the talks, which were held in a cordial atmosphere, the two sides exchanged views on the development of bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest. Prior to the meeting, the distinguished visitor toured the offices of the Antiaircraft Defense and Revolutionary Air Force General Staff, where he was briefed on the structure and missions of that FAR department.

COUNTRY CONTINUES TO WAIT FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

FL221137 Bridgetown CANA in English 1035 GMT 22 Mar 83

[By Colin McSeveny]

[Text] Havana, March 22, CANA-REUTER -- One year after opening its doors to foreign capitalist investment, communist Cuba is still waiting for investors. In February last year the Council of Ministers passed a joint ventures law which was seen by diplomats here as a sign that Cuba's need for hard currency outweighed any possible ideological misgivings.

A government official described it at the time as one of the most important economic policy moves since Cuba establsihed communism under President Fidel Castro more than 20 years ago. But a survey by REUTERS of the embassies of Cuba's main capitalist trading partners -- Canada, France, Spain, Japan and Britain -- indicated that not one foreign company had taken advantage of the legislation. Cuban officials were reluctant to comment but diplomats in close contact with the ministries involved said they were disappointed by the lack of response.

The law was basically designed to encourage ventures similar to those that exist in many non-communist developing countries but without any possibility of "sweat shop" conditions, according to the government. No foreign company would be allowed to hold more than 49 per cent of the shares and Cuban workers would receive all the benefits they are used to in purely state concerns.

The investing company is allowed to appoint its own executives, define production and sales plans, fix prices, export and import directly and select personnel, according to the law. It also guarantees unhindered movement of hard currency, exempts the joint venture from import duties, and limits tax on profits to 30 per cent or less. "For example, the law allow such ventures as foreign fast-food chains to operate outlets in major tourist hotels," one official said. But the hoped-for boost to Cuba's dwindling hard currency reserves -- estimated officially at less than 100 million dollars -- has failed to materialise.

"Cuba could not have picked a worse time to launch what might in the long term prove to be a successful scheme," the commercial attache of a Western embassy told REUTERS. Diplomats here pointed to a number of reasons for the lack of response even in areas such as tourism and electrical industries which appear the most suitable for such ventures.

-- The law virtually coincided with Cuba's rescheduling of 1.3 billion dollars of its foreign debts, thus effectively halting most commercial dealings with the West.

-- The world-wide slump has discouraged companies throughout the capitalist world from embarking on any possibly risky capital ventures.

-- There is still a lack of Western confidence in a government which is so closely linked to the Soviet Union through politics, trade and technical expertise.

-- Cuba has no ready-made regional market because of its political isolation and the U.S. trade embargo.

The diplomats also said the Cubans, unused to capitalist investment for more than 20 years, still had not worked out the fine details of how the law would work in practice. "A group of visiting businessmen closely questioned Commerce Ministry officials on the new law last year and some of the answers left them unconvinced," a diplomat said. But diplomats whose work includes the encouraging of commercial links between their countries and Cuba agreed that the scheme held some promise. "If Cuba can get its debt problems sorted out and the world economy makes an upturn then foreign interest in the new law will undoubtedly incease," one said.

ORAMAS MEETS WITH CZECH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER

FL221551 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Prague -- Oscar Oramas, vice minister of foreign relations, was received in this capital by Jindrich Rehoreck, first deputy minister of foreign affairs. The two officials discussed the development of relations between the two countries and current international issues.

BARBADOS

ADAMS OUTLINES GOVERNMENT'S REVENUE ESTIMATES

FL221616 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 15 Mar 83 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] Prime minister and minister of finance, Tom Adams, yesterday outlined government's estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1983-84, at the same time revealing new plans for housing, massive road construction and a general easing in the economic plight of Barbadians.

The prime minister opened his presentation noting that there were few occasions such as the previous 12 months when countries like Barbados were fraught with disorder, real, imagined or projected, as far as the economy was concerned. According to Mr. Adams unemployment has gone up in all countries, the entire Caribbean has been shaken and rattled by world affairs and clearly the most favoured nations were now beginning to feel the depression despite their oil wealth.

The effect on Barbados, Mr. Adams said, had been the halting of the process of growth initiated in 1977, but had nevertheless not prevented this country from lifting up the working class from the bottom. The prime minister also said that life for the man in the street was no worse than in 1975, when unemployment was 22 per cent. Economic activity, led by restrictive policies, had closed down small businesses and the retail sector had fallen off by 16 per cent.

Mr. Adams noted then, too, that government had money to spend but did not know how to use it. There were no projects of substance, there was widespread dissatisfaction, and the cabinet of that day had become full of itself.

Even today, he continued, "the Lucifers of that day are still fulminating and after falling from grace, have learnt nothing but have also forgotten nothing."

The finance minister then countered that Barbados was not the worst country in the world and said that unemployment now stood at thirteen and a half per cent, which was lower than Britain and probably Canada, adding: "The percentage of adults working in Barbados still remains one of the highest in the world."

Mr. Adams, nevertheless, contended that one of his government's severe concerns was [what] to do with the provision of unemployment benefits, which he said stood at $10 million because of the small claims made on the scheme. As a result, government was now considering representation made by the Barbados Workers Union that qualification for benefits should be made more generous. He then turned his attention to the economic cutbacks which he said had principally affected two industries, sugar and tourism, thus making it more difficult for people to claim unemployment relief because the problems related more to under-employment and not loss of jobs.

The prime minister quoted figures to show that Barbados had the third highest domestic income within Caricom and said that altogether there was too much fear being generated in the country, not only about the economic future but the economic past as well.

Mr. Adams sought to rebut opposition criticisms that unemployment and starvation were rampant by pointing out that the daily intake of calories for Barbadians was higher than in Britain, that cirticism that Barbadians could not pay their bills were not valid because the country boasted of 10,000 video cassettes; there were 50,000 T.V. sets and nationals spent $40 million on foreign travel. "This is the poor country in which we live," he quipped.

"It is time to stop selling ourselves short," he advised, while noting that the traditional Barbadian virtues served us in good stead during the years 1981-1983.

The prime minister also said that before "we seek to drag ourselves down, we must recognise that self-help and restraint have kept Barbados afloat in these years."

The Barbados Government is projecting current account revenue in the vicinity of $485.4 million and current expenditure of $494.5 million with a current account deficit of some $9 million. The current revenue represented a 6.8 per cent increase over 1982, which the prime minister attributed to the sharp fall in inflation in 1982 -- a thing he said which reflected one of the rosy clouds around the world in that year.

A bright picture was also painted for the country's foreign reserves which during 1982 and 1983 stood at an exceptionally high level and have allowed the government to repay a short term Central Bank loan.

A similar picture existed with the country's national debt which also increased by a small percentage in 1982, from $635.4 million at the end of December, 1981, to $717.7 million at the end of December, 1982, with a projected $745 million by the end of March this year.

The foreign component, Mr. Adams assured, was not increased by the same percentage as in 1981 and while the foreign component stood at 259.4 million at the end of 1981, it was 286.9 at the end of 1982, which the prime minister said was still modest for a country like Barbados especially when the figure included the loans from the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Adams then dealt with plans for financing the cement plant, the Central Bank's new building at Church Village, new initiatives in housing and a massive road construction programme.

GRENADA

COARD CITES STATE ENTERPRISES' LOW PRODUCTIVITY

FL212015 Bridgetown CANA in English 1910 GMT 21 Mar 83

[By Alister Hughes]

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, March 21, CANA -- Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, describing productivity in state-run enterprises as low, has called on Grenadians to step up their emphasis on education and increase their technical skills.

Mr Coard told a meeting of 600 delegates from various organisations who were asked to provide inputs into the 1983 budget at a "conference on the economy" that if productivity was to be stepped up in state enterprises workers would have to reach a certain level of education and acquire technical skills." "You can't take the training unless you can read and understand what is in the textbooks," he said. Minister Coard said also that workers' productivity was low and, if this is to be corrected, their "political consciousness" must be raised. "Conscious workers," he said, "will have correct attitudes to work, punctuality, discipline, training, care of equipment, proper use of supplies, proper use of time and other factors which increase worker productivity."

While illustrating the problems which must be faced, Mr Coard's presentation to the conference included a report on the operation of Grenada state enterprises with details of their performance, listing 32 of these enterprises in the "productive sphere," the minister's report sets out each enterprise's 1982 production objectives, the actual production achieved and the profit or loss which was made.

Fifty per cent of these enterprises did not achieve their targets, he reported. Some, like the Grenada Electricity Company and the "Crucial Factor" Restaurant, missed the mark by only a small margin (two per cent and one respectively) while others registered shortfalls from seven percent (the port authority) and 14 per cent (Grenada Sugar Factory) to 82 per cent (National Fisheries Co) and 89 per cent (National Housing Authority).

The 1982 production targets of eight other enterprises were not given and a further eight other enterprises exceeded the targets they had set themselves. "The Free West Indian" newspaper topped the list in this last group with a production of 160 per cent in 1982 over 1981, and the international airport construction has next with 128 per cent.

Concerning profit and loss; Mr Coard had not given figures relative to all the 32 enterprises listed. With nine enterprises (like the national housing authority and ministry of construction), the terms "profit" and "loss" were not applicable, and profit and loss figures for three other enterprises were not available. These are Grenada Agro Industries Ltd, the "Free West Indian" and the asphalt plant.

Of the remaining 20 enterprises, 12 are responsible for a total profit of 2.5 million dollars (one EC dollar; 37 cents U.S.) the Grenada Telephone Company being at the head of this group with a profit of 700,000 dollars, a return of 22 per cent on gross earnings of 3.1 million dollars.

On the "loss" side, eight enterprises show a total loss of 2.2 million dollars. Of these, Grenada Farms Corporation [GFC] shows the biggest drain, a loss of 1.5 million dollars or 176 per cent on a production of 851,500 dollars.

This corporation manages 23 government-owned farms comprising 3,967 acres involving cultivation of a variety of crops. The target for 1982 was a production of 2.8 million dollars but all that was achieved was 851,000 dollars, which is only 30 per cent of the target.

Minister Coard reported that this showing results from the fact that GFC has no proper system of record keeping and accounting, and the corporation's organisation and management are very poor. Illustrating this, he said the officials of GFC had been unable to give the information needed to make plans for 1983. Personnel of the ministry of planning had had to go on to the farms and help to take an inventory of the fields.

"If you don't know how many trees you have, if you don't know where you are," the minister said, "you cannot say where you are going."

The GFC's production target for 1983 is 1.8 million dollars. According to Mr Coard, the average age of the agricultural worker in Grenada is 51, he has a low educational level, his technology is primitive and his productivity is low, being on the average two or three times less than what he is paid.

"That is to say," the minister explained, "that a worker is paid 8.50 dollars per day but he or she is producing less than 3.00 dollars or 4.00 dollars-a-day in agricultural produce."

Mr Coard proposed a number of solutions for improving the performance of GFC and the agricultural industry generally. These include introduction of new methods of cultivation, mechanisation, production of non-traditional crops, which would hopefully fetch high prices on the export market, and production of crops for processing by Grenada Agro Industries Ltd.

NICARAGUA INCURSION PROMPTS MOBILIZATION

PA211327 Paris AFP in Spanish 1204 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 21 Mar (AFP) -- All the military and paramilitary forces of the small Caribbean island of Grenada were mobilized this weekend after the annoucement that counterrevolutionary troops had entered Nicaragua. Interrupting its programs, the state-owned Radio Free Grenada announced on Saturday that rightwing forces supported by the United States had "invaded Nicaragua," and called on soldiers, policemen and firemen of the island to "immediately return to their garrisons." The leftwing government of Grenada led by Prime Minister Maurice Bishop maintains relations with Nicaragua, Cuba and the Nonaligned Movement.

Radio Free Grenada broadcast messages by Bishop and Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard announcing their solidarity with Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Sandinist Government estimated that some 3,000 members of the counterrevolutionary forces made up former Somozists had entered their territory in the past few days.

POLICE COMMISSIONER IN CUBA FOR MEDICAL CARE

FL230035 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Commissioner of police, Major Ian St Bernard, has left the state to undergo medical treatment in Cuba. As a result of this, Major Patrick Macleish has been appointed to act in his absence, Major Macleish is the commissioner of prisons, a portfolio which is now being taken up by First Lieutenant (Justin Wallace). First Lieutenant (Adonis Francis) has been appointed acting deputy commissioner of police, while First Lieutenant (D'Acosta Bola) has been made acting deputy commissioner of prisons.

JAMAICA

PARLIAMENT APPROVES U.S. PRIVATE LOAN

FL221811 Bridgetown CANA in English 1702 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 22, CANA -- Parliament in Jamaica has approved the government's guaranteeing of a 15 million dollar (U.S.) loan from an American securities firm to help finance a squatters up-grading programme here.

The loan from Pain Webber Real Estate Securities, Incorporated to the state-owned Jamaica Mortgage Bank (JMB) is to help finance a 56 million dollar (U.S.) programme started by the previous government. The Jamaica Government is to put up the rest of the money.

According to a ministry paper on the matter, the programme is in four components:

Upgrading of 5,000 squatter settlement plots island-wide to provide for secure land tenure and the rationalisation of the layout of existing plots. The loan allocation will be 1.2 million dollars (U.S.) with the government of Jamaica's contribution 12.7 million dollars (U.S.).

In the second programme 1,600 new schemes will be allocated in Kingston, St Andrew and other urban areas. The loan will provide for 5.4 million dollars (U.S.) and the government 17.1 million dollars (U.S.).

An owner-occupier, build-on-own-land segment, 1,000 units will be available with the loan providing for 3.1 million dollars (U.S.) and the government 9.2 million dollars (U.S.)

The fourth section of house improvement/mortgage loans will make available 1,250 loans. Recipients will be eligible for up to 16,000 dollars (1 JCA dollar; 56 cents U.S.) in mortgage loans and 2,000 dollars for home improvement loans.

The loan allocation will be 2.2 million dollars (U.S.) and the National Housing Trust will match this amount.

EXPORTERS TO DISCUSS CARICOM TRADE TURMOIL

FL222205 Bridgetown CANA in English 1852 GMT 22 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, March 22, CANA -- Jamaica exporters are to meet in a special session on Friday to discuss the ill effects on their businesses of the current trading turbulence in the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom). A circular from the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA) called on its members to bring to the meeting "full information about their total export trade, volume of trade with Trinidad and Barbados, orders and commitments of trade with the two countries for 1982 and 1983, value of goods already shipped against total orders for 1983, and numbers of workers likely to be affected in the event of closure of trade with Caricom."

This special meeting was triggered by a weekend announcement in Port-of-Spain that the Trinidad and Tobago Government would have from yesterday put all imports from the Caribbean Community that were on its negative list under license. "While this move is expected to affect trade with all the islands of the Caricom region, the measure is obviously aimed to control trade with Jamaica," the JEA circular said.

Jamaica had provided the fuel for a trading war within the 12-member community of present and former British colonies when it, in January, introduced a tiered exchange rate for its currency, which, Caricom partners complained, made their goods more expensive here.

Barbados a month ago, in what it said was a move to regain some of the competitive edge lost through Kingston's action, decided to float its currency against the Jamaican dollar. Trade between the two islands has been frozen since then, as the Jamaican Central Bank halted transactions in the Barbadian currency, waiting, it said, until commercial banks in Bridgetown decided on exchange rates. The official selling rate quoted by the Central Bank here for the Barbados currency is J89.2 cents, but there are no quotations by the commercial banks.

Trinidad and Tobago, in response to a slow-down in its economy because of dwindling oil earnings, last year began extending the products on its negative import lists and has now apparently decided to invoke that section of the Caricom Treaty that allows members with economic problems to waive certain agreements on free trade.

Since the impasse with Barbados scores of orders have been cancelled and the JEA said that on yesterday's implementation of Trinidad and Tobago's new licensing arrangements no less than a dozen had been cancelled from Port-of-Spain.

There has been no public disclosure of the findings of the central bankers who met in the Trinidad and Tobago capital, though they spoke of having come up with ideas, which, if they meet the approval of their governments, could smooth over the problems.

Jamaica Central Bank governor, Horace Barber, however, made it clear to the Trinidad and Tobago press that the Seaga government had no plans to retreat from its dual exchange system. He had also asserted that half of Jamaica's imports from Caricom were at the official rate.

With most of Jamaica's exports to Trinidad and Tobago on the negative list, exporters association President Geoffrey Messado is concerned that exporters here will have long delays in receiving export licenses and, maybe, in some cases, not receiving any at all. He warned that it was incumbent on the Jamaica Government to take action to "bring Caricom trade back to normal." The manufacturers association, whose executive will look at the matter on Thursday, said that the situation was upsetting to its members. "The implications for us are very, very grave and the JMA is requiring a clear statement from the government," the association president, Anthony Williams said.

ANC'S MELI URGES ISOLATION OF SOUTH AFRICA

FL212110 Bridgetown CANA in English 2023 GMT 21 Mar 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 21, CANA -- Caribbean countries which participate in the struggle to isolate South Africa are not only helping to bring down the racist regime in Pretoria but aiding their own struggle against imperialism, a senior official of the African National Congress (ANC), Francis Meli, has said here. "Your have a great responsibility to represent Africa and yourselves and that is to isolate South Africa internationally and by this you will be aiding your own struggle," Dr Meli, the ANC's director of external publicity, told journalists. "...We are not fighting to only liberate ourselves but fighting against international imperialism," he added.

Dr Meli, who is here at the invitation of the Marxist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ), made his comments against the background of a recent tour to South Africa by a team of rebel West Indian cricketers in defiance of regional governments and official cricketing bodies. The players, including five Jamaicans, have been banned from playing for their countries and the West Indies.

The ANC, which is officially banned in South Africa, is seen as the vanguard movement in the fight against the white minority apartheid regime. Dr Meli said that no struggle could be won in the republic without the effective seizure of power by the pass of the people. He rejected United States attempts to link a resolution of the problems of apartheid in South Africa and Pretoria's continued occupation of Namibia to the removal of Cuban troops from Angola.

"We agree that our problem is international, but Reagan has been trying to internationalise our struggle in the context of the cold war," Dr Meli said. Noting that nobody has objected when South African troops had in 1975 gone deep into southern Angola, he added: "The Cubans were invited by the independent Government of Angola and that is a matter between them."

He argued that there could be no link between the two as the ANC was not operating from Angola or anyone else's territory, and declared: "The ANC is the people of Angola." Dr Meli also said that the ANC was seeking only a military victory in South Africa. "Our military operations," he said, "are subordinate to our political struggle, though the struggle takes new forms as it develops. However, the military struggle is part and parcel of the politiccial struggle."

During his visit here, ending at weekend, Dr Meli is to have talks with church and academic leaders, meet oposition leader Michael Manley, address public lectures and is also attempting to see Foreign Minister Hugh Shearer. "One of the greatest problems (we face) is the problem of ignorance and I hope the visit will help in the fight against ignorance," Dr Meli said.

ST LUCIA

UNIONS WARNED ABOUT POLITICIZATION OF ACTIVITIES

FL211530 Bridgetown CANA in English 2120 GMT 19 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Castries, St Lucia, March 19, St Lucia's Labour Minister Clendon Mason has cautioned local trade unions against politicising their activities, amid rumours here of plans to destabilise the country. Mr Mason, who was addressing a seminar on worker's eduction organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Seamen, Waterfront and General Workers' Union here, described as "an act of wanton suicide" what he said were rumours going around in St Lucia that some trade unions were seeking to abuse their power to destabilise the island.

He added: "In order therefore to ensure the survival of the trade union as the body promoting the welfare of all of its members, common sense alone would seem to dictate that a trade union should do well not to politicise its activities." Mr Mason thought that unions may seek to have their views expressed on party political platforms or lobby in parliament for a particular course of action to be pursued. "But a trade union ought not to get itself enmeshed in political action of its own, since this usually tends to split the union into rival factions, thus weakening the organisation and diverting it from its real business of promoting the overall welfare of its members and their respective families, the minister said. He added: "As for the rumour going the rounds that some trade unions are allegedly seeking to abuse their strength... in an effort to destabilise the country, I think all genuine trade unions in St Lucia are sufficiently well educated, nor would they be permitted by their membership to attempt so naive an act of wanton suicide."

COMPTON CALLS FOR URGENT UK-WINDWARDS TALKS

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[By Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, March 19, CANA -- St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton is calling for urgent discussions between the British and Windward Islands governments to map out a strategy for the survival of the eastern Caribbean banana industry. Compton made the suggestion in a letter to Barbados-based British High Commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean Viscount Dunrossil. The text of the letter was released here today. The call came amid a big increase in the banana exports of the four Windward Islands, and a continuing decline in the value of the British pound, the currency in which exports are paid for, resulting in unprofitably low returns to growers.

St Lucia -- the main exporter of the four islands -- has just shipped 1,417 tonnes of fruit to Britain, its highest single consignment for nine years. Officials of the Banana Growers Association here said that exports had been hovering around the 1,000 tonne mark per shipment in recent months. In his letter, Compton noted that Britain had taken a keen interest in the industry since its inception (in the 1950's) to ensure its survival. He added that in the case of St Lucia, the banana association was now under "good and effective management" and measures had been taken to reduce the association's operational costs and to improve quality. The consequent improvement in quality, the letter added, had resulted in an agreement with Fyffes, another British importer, to accept up to 500 tonnes of fruit from the Windwards, instead of importing from "dollar" sources bananas which had usually been of better quality. But threatening the entire combined effort of the farmer's associations, and the British Government, the St Lucia leader said was "the poor return" to the farmer, not as a result of the market price, which was now "quite good," but rather from "the rapid depreciation of the value of sterling against the U.S. dollar to which the E.C. dollar is tied."

Compton said that since 1981 the pound had lost some 25 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar. He added: "The result of this has been near disaster for the farmer In the case of St Lucia, who now receives 12 cents per pound for his fruit against a production cost in 1981 terms of 16.7 cents per pound." Compton noted that the projection by Geest Industries, the British company which markets most of the islands' fruit, was that the market price would rise to a summer level of 432 sterling per tonne, which at the 1981-82 dollar value was exceptionally good but at current rates was "nothing short of a disaster." According to the prime minister, at the current rates the return to the farmer would be a mere 14 cents net "which is considerably short of production costs." Compton suggested to Dunrossil that the current problem could be dealt with at two levels: Firstly, an effective market management policy should be devised immediately, which limited licences to "dollar" producers to a level which ensured that there was no surplus fruit on the market which would precipitate a price collapse. Secondly, he suggested that the British Government should be persuaded to agree to support the "banana pound" at a fixed parity of E.C. dollars 4.80, which was the parity in 1976 before the severing of the sterling-E.C. dollar link. Compton added: "assuming that sterling remains at U.S. dollar 1.50 to the pound then the cost of this support to her majesty's government for the entire Windward Islands industry will be at most E.C. dollars 15 million for a year..."

He said that if any assistance was to be given to the industry then this mixture of effective market management and exchange support was needed and these steps should be taken immediately "if the industry is to be rescued and the substantial investment in British aid is to be converted into real benefits to the industry and to the farmers." He added: "I need not elaborate on the consequences to these islands were the persistence of uneconomic prices to lead to a substantial dimunition of interest in the industry on the part of farmers and its eventual collapse." "I am therefore suggesting that as a matter of the utmost urgency a meeting be convened between the governments of the Windward Islands and her majesty's government, in the United Kingdom, to devise a strategy for the survival and the economic viability of an industry, upon which the prosperity of these islands depend." The letter to Dunrossil was copied to the governments of the other Windward Islands, Dominica, St Vincent and Grenada.

REID CALLS FOR COMMON ECONOMIC STRATEGY

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 18, CANA -- Guyana's Prime Minister Dr Ptolemy Reid has called for a common strategy towards the economic problems facing the Caribbean. And Dr Reid urged representatives to the second meeting of Caribbean Community (Caricom) ministers with responsibility for the integration of women in development to be "steadfast in this crisis." He made the call while delivering the keynote address at the opening of the two-day meeting yesterday at the Caricom Secretariat here.

Dr Reid told the regional representatives: "The present harsh world crisis has already driven home to all of us some new lessons and we in the Caribbean Community must stand or fall together." He said: "This crisis has provided us with the opportunity to accept the changes that are necessary for our survival." The Guyanese prime minister said that in this economic battle economic weapons must be used. Dr Reid emphasised that the region must not lessen the implications of the global economic crisis to its exploiters as was the case in the past and called for the region to be declared a zone of peace. "In a world of obnoxious unequal development, there can be no place," he said, adding, "now is the struggle of the Third World... the struggle for a new economic order to provide us with a chance for people to develop in dignity and self respect."

Acting Secretary-General Roderick Rainford said the secretariat was glad to be intimately involved in the organisation and hosting of the meeting for at least two important reasons. "One of these reasons has to do with nature of our mandates in Caricom on the integration of women in development... both in terms of specific tasks given to the secretariat as well as in terms of broad policies adopted for itself by the community as a whole," the acting secretary general said. Mr Rainford pointed out that the other reason for gratification was connected with the socially strategic significance of the subject. "It gives us the privilege of being part of the struggle that is taking place on the very frontier of social development, the struggle to fully liberate women and as a consequence fully liberate all human beings in society," he said. He expressed confidence that with the traditional Caricom sense of compromise and the customary Caricom ethos of maturity, the participants will bring their collective wisdom to bear in considering matters before them in arriving at agreed positions for further action.

NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CUBA SIGNED

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[Text] Georgetown -- The seventh session of the Cuba-Guyana Mixed Intergovernmental Commission has concluded in this capital with the signing of a final protocol. The agreement provides for scientific-technical, educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries for 1983. During the signing ceremony, the two sides pointed to the fruitful cooperation which had been accomplished through the agreement reached in 1982, placing particular emphasis on the work of the Cuban medical brigade in Guyana.